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REPORT OF FINDINGS

A 1978 Survey of Boston Resident Attitudes Toward Their City, Their Neighborhoods and Its People

Conducted for

CITY OF BOSTON

Office of Program Development

1978

Consensus, Inc.

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INTRODUCTION

The objective of this comprehensive research project was to provide the Office of Program Development of the City of Boston with a factual and objective overview of Boston resident attitudes toward their city in 1978.

Specifically, the project was designed to update findings generated in a citywide benchmark study completed during May of 1977---and to examine new issues which have developed during the intervening period of time. Further, the 1978 research effort was intended to serve as a measure for evaluating the relative acceptability and impact of planned programs or concepts that may be introduced to the City of Boston in the future, and to pinpoint the strengths and weaknesses of those programs or policies among target publics.

The ultimate purpose of the project was to provide Boston city government, the Office of Program Development, and other agencies with information to form the basis and direction of future planning and program development.

Procedures

In line with these objectives, CONSENSUS, Inc. conducted a multi-stage survey research project, involving:

I. Compilation and analysis of available research data

II. Base Survey for comparative analysis with 1977 data

III. Supplementary Surveys for analyses of individual sub-samples.

I. Compilation of Analysis of Available Research Data

The 1977 survey covered a wide range of informational areas, some of which were ultimately more productive and applicable to Boston city government requirements than others. The function of the analytical operation outlined here was to review those data and other secondary information generated over the intervening period, and to establish an order of priority for measurements designated as critical to future planning needs.

II. Base Survey for Comparative Analysis with 1977 Data

Based on the conclusions which emerged from Stage I, a Base Survey involving personal in-home interviews among a representative cross-section of the total Boston population age 18 years and over was completed. A total sample of one thousand (1,000) Boston residents was interviewed, employing sampling and interviewing procedures designed to allow for accurate comparisons with 1977 findings.

III. Supplementary Surveys for Analyses of Individual Sub-Samples

To provide for individual measurements, analyses and cross-tabulations of special sub-groups of interest ---specifically, the seventeen primary neighborhoods which make up the City of Boston---supplementary telephone interview surveys were conducted among independent samples totaling one thousand five hundred fifty (1,550) residents age 18 years and older.

Thus, consolidated analyses of citywide measurements are based on a total of two thousand five hundred fifty (2,550) interviews, broken down as follows:

	Sample Size
Base Citywide Sample	1,000
Supplementary Survey Samples	1,550
Total: Consolidated Sample	2,550

Information Areas

Information areas covered in the personal interview Base Survey and the Supplementary Telephone Surveys included:

a. Population Profile

- Resident demographic characteristics
- Variations in demographic composition of neighborhoods
- Behavioral groupings involving mobility and migration.

b. Community Development Activities

- Resident reactions to existing programs and facilities
- Attitudes toward future programming and budgeting emphasis
- Resident perceptions of priority problems of public interest

c. <u>Basic Perceptions and Attitudes Toward the City and Its Component Neighborhoods</u>

- Optimism vs. pessimism regarding the future of the city in general, and specific neighborhoods in particular

- Factors impacting on resident commitment and future planning to reside vs. leave the neighborhood, community or city

- Elements exerting maximum leverage on resident commitment and stability

The introduction of multivariate analyses at the computer data processing stage of the project reduced survey findings from the personal interview Base Survey to a meaningful rank order of impact and priority, as far as Boston public attitudes and needs are concerned. This critical analytical step facilitated the translation of study findings into actionable suggestions for immediate and long-term program planning.

Respondent classification characteristics in both personal and telephone survey interviews included:

- Age
- Sex
- Length of residence
- Education
- Race/Ethnicity
- Employment/Occupation
- Household income
- Composition of households: number of persons, children, older adults

Methodology

I. Base Survey

1. An area probablity sample of the City of Boston was designed which involved two hundred seven (207) primary sampling units. The sampling plan yielded completed personal in-home interviews with a sample of one thousand (1,000) households, projectable to the total adult residential population of the City of Boston.

2. Field supervisors reviewed and assessed the complete sample in advance of interviewing in order to insure efficient administration of field procedures and to establish staff requirements for interviewing, special security assistance and other technical considerations.

3. Questionnaires were pre-tested and tape recorded for review and analysis prior to the initiation of full-scale field procedures. Each interview required approximately forty (40) minutes for completion.

4. Interview validation procedures included 100% coverage of each interviewer's first day activity, followed by a 25% systematic sampling of the remaining assignments within forty-eight (48) hours of completion.

II. Supplementary Surveys

One thousand five hundred fifty (1,550) individual supplementary telephone interviews were conducted with adults age 18 years and older, allowing for data cross-tabulations by Boston's seventeen (17) primary neighborhoods:

1. Allston
2. Brighton
3. Back Bay/Beacon Hill
4. Charlestown
5. Dorchester/Fields Corner
6. East Boston
7. Fenway
8. Franklin Field/Mattapan
9. Hyde Park
10. Jamaica Plain/Mission Hill
11. North End/Downtown
12. Roslindale
13. Roxbury
14. South Boston
15. South End/Chinatown
16. Dorchester/Uphams Corner
17. West Roxbury

Each interview required approximately twenty minutes for completion. Sample design and selection procedures replicated those employed in the Base Survey, modified in accordance with established telephone sampling techniques.

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All personal in-home and telephone interviewing was completed during the period August 17 to October 2, 1978.

Allowance for Sampling Error

As are all findings developed from a sampling of a large universe, data in this report are estimates subject to a known degree of sampling error. The size of the sampling error varies according to size of the sample and the proportion or percentage assigned to a particular response.

The table on the following page summarizes recommended allowances for the range of the sampling error in samples of different sizes and at various levels of response.

Estimates of Sampling Error (±)
at 95% Confidence Level

Sample Size	1000	750	600	400	200	150	100
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Percentages near 10	2	3	3	4	5	6	7
Percentages near 20	3	4	4	5	7	8	9
Percentages near 30	4	4	4	6	8	9	10
Percentages near 40	4	4	5	6	8	10	11
Percentages near 50	4	4	5	6	8	10	11
Percentages near 60	4	4	5	6	8	10	11
Percentages near 70	4	4	4	6	8	9	10
Percentages near 80	3	4	4	5	7	8	9
Percentages near 90	2	3	3	4	5	6	7

Example: If the response level in the full sample of 1000 respondents is at 20% the chances are 95 in 100 that the true level of response from a survey of the entire Boston population would fall between 17% and 23%; i.e., plus or minus 3 percentage points.

CONCLUSIONS

1. The Public Mood

At a time when residents of major American urban centers across the nation face fiscal crises, service cutbacks and forecasts of economic downturn, 1978 citywide survey findings show Boston residents expressing clearly optimistic attitudes toward the future of their city.

The prevailing view among most Bostonians today is that their city's residents enjoy at least the same quality of life, or are better off than residents of other major cities. A majority of all population subgroups rate the quality of life in Boston equal to or better than conditions experienced in other cities---while satisfaction levels are significantly higher among Boston's upper socio-economic groups, younger residents, and newcomers to the city in particular.

These relatively favorable perceptions of Boston in 1978 are expressed in the context of observed improvements in conditions in the city during the past three years---and anticipated further improvements in the future. Optimistic

ratings regarding Boston's future are not limited to selected socio-economic household groups defined on the basis of age, race or sex. Instead, with a wide range of internal disagreements between various population groups on selected social and governmental issues, an optimistic outlook regarding Boston's future represents the overview shared by all.

The current level of public optimism is greater than was observed in the 1977 measurement, and suggests that a reversal in Boston public opinion and attitude trends occurred during the past fifteen months. Residents studied in 1977 pictured conditions in their city as having deteriorated somewhat during the 1975-1977 period, and anticipated no significant change during the next three years. In contrast to this static view of the Boston condition in 1977, residents perceive their city in more dynamic and favorable terms today---citing slightly improved conditions during the past three years, and expectations of significant further improvement in the years to come.

2. The "Neighborhood" Phenomenon

Like many major urban centers, Boston is extremely "neighborhoodized." Demography, housing characteristics, lifestyles and behavior patterns vary dramatically among the nearly thirty population clusters that comprise the city. What is unique to Boston, however, is the extent to which this "neighborhood" phenomenon carries over into public attitudes toward present and future living conditions and qualities. An important key to the increased levels of optimism in the minds of today's Boston residents is their commitment to the future of their neighborhoods. Bostonians rate conditions in their own neighborhoods today more favorably than conditions in the city as a whole, and look to even greater improvement in neighborhood conditions during the next three years. As was observed in 1977, they continue to express greater pride in their own neighborhoods than the entity they call the city---and faced with the possibility of upward social mobility through a change of residences in the near future, a relatively high proportion of Boston residents would prefer to remain in their present neighborhood, rather than move to another part of the city or outside of the city proper.

From an analytical standpoint, this "neighborhood" phenomenon influences resident perceptions of Boston as a whole, and exerts greater leverage on public thinking regarding the totality of living conditions than any consideration of Boston as a city. Overwhelming majorities of the Boston public approve of city government focusing its attention on neighborhood programming, with most residents reporting satisfaction with the benefits they derive directly from those expenditures and activities. Further, Boston residents call for a virtually equal distribution of city government resources between programs tailored and directed to the needs of specific neighborhoods vs. those distributed across the city as a whole.

Public perceptions of neighborhood conditions, the appearance of neighborhood housing and streets, and feelings of personal safety/security in the neighborhood correlate closely with overall attitudes toward current qualities and future living conditions in the city of Boston. It can be concluded that the satisfaction and optimism reported in the 1978 survey is more a statement about Boston's neighborhood phenomenon than about any other dimension of the city.

3. Negative Views

The magnitude of Boston's pride and belief in the future of its neighborhoods offsets significantly negative resident perceptions of their city in three specific areas of concern:

a. city property taxes

b. the quality of public school education

c. crime/personal safety considerations

Despite substantially below-average ratings or criticisms assigned to these aspects of living in Boston---and measurably negative ratings of the city's race relations and pollution/air quality problems as well---the net overview among Bostonians today is clearly positive. On balance, then, residents are ready to criticize their city in specific areas of discontent, but equally ready to subordinate those criticisms to a mood of satisfaction and optimism that outweighs even the most pressing problems of the moment.

4. Budget Direction

Equally noteworthy is the demand for significantly increased government spending in a number of sectors---this in the face of serious public concern and confusion regarding the city's fiscal condition and tax rates.

A majority of Boston residents call for major budget increases for:

a. public schools
b. street repair
c. housing improvement program
d. assistance to the elderly and handicapped

To a certain degree, however, a polarity of feeling is reported in connection with certain budgets, suggesting the existence of sizeable population groups within Boston that are in sharp disagreement regarding the appropriateness of current spending levels. Majority demand for increased spending on public schools (47%) is countered by a call for school budget cutbacks among a minority totaling 20% of the city's population---as high as 28% in neighborhoods where private schooling is prevalent. Similarly, while 40% of the Boston public favors budget increases for public housing, 24% demand cutbacks in public housing budgets---with levels reaching 36% in certain areas of the city.

Demand for increased government spending or major budget increases for specific services is not always the primary indicator of public concern or dissatisfaction. Public affairs research experience in Louisville, Greensboro, Minneapolis/St. Paul, Seattle, Bridgeport and other major urban areas dictates that residents are often likely to equate public school education problems with a need for significant budget increases. Roads and housing problems are also viewed as demanding capital intensive solutions, while problems centering around crime, pollution and the enforcement of civil laws are usually perceived as manageable through improved utilization and deployment of existing governmental resources.

5. Boston's Fiscal Condition

The question of responsibility for tax rates, budgeting and the expenditures of public funds is a complex issue for Boston residents, further complicated by their recognition that many of the city's fiscal and governmental decisions are dictated by forces outside city government. The vast majority of the city's population feels that the way the city is run is decided by the state and federal governments and other influences. Most Bostonians think that city government has lost much of its control over spending because of union contracts covering municipal employees, and feel that inflation makes future tax increases inevitable.

Based on prevailing perceptions of how much Boston contributes to Massachusetts state revenues, more than half of the Boston population thinks the city gets shortchanged while other parts of the state get more than their fair share of state aid.

Nevertheless, a majority of the Boston public also feels that they pay higher property taxes than they would if they lived in similar residences in another area, and that the city might well afford to cut taxes---particularly if tax laws were changed so that religious institutions, universities and other tax-exempt organizations paid city taxes on their properties---or if Boston were to receive its proportionate share of financial support from the state.

Public focus on Boston's tax rate and fiscal condition does not extend to a clear demand for "Proposition 13" type tax cuts, however, and the possibility of cutbacks in city services resulting from tax cuts generates serious doubts in the minds of many Bostonians about the acceptability of that course of action. More than one in three residents think that recent and proposed tax cuts in California will result in severe reductions in the quality of education,

law enforcement and health services for its citizens---and opinions are evenly divided as to whether Boston residents are willing to accept cutbacks in the quality of city services in return for limitations on property tax increases in the future.

It must be remembered that Boston public opinion regarding the city's fiscal condition is not necessarily factually based. As is the case in most urban surveys, large numbers of respondents to the 1978 survey rely heavily on media, hearsay and other informal sources in arriving at conclusions regarding complicated and emotionally charged issues. To the extent that future public communication clarifies the realities of these issues, the attitudes observed among Boston residents in 1978 can be expected to change significantly.

6. The City Tax Rate

The logical result of prevailing public confusion and skepticism regarding city tax rates and budgeting is a tendency to support "hold the line" or status quo policies with regard to tax rates for the immediate future. Although a high 25% of Boston home owners were not certain as to whether their city property taxes in 1977 were higher, lower or about the same as the previous year's---28% thought that 1977 taxes were higher, compared to 41% who thought they were the same, and 1% who reported paying lower property taxes in 1977 than in 1976.

Looking ahead to next year, better than two out of three Boston home owners indicated that they would be satisfied or pleased if the city tax rate remained the same.

Nearly half of all Boston home owners expected a $3.00 increase in the city tax rate next year, but only 13% said they would be satisfied or pleased with that development. Relatively few home owners expected the city tax rate to increase by as much as $6.00 next year, and reactions to that possibility were overwhelmingly negative.

From the standpoint of possible cuts in city property taxes in the future, less than 30% of Boston home owners expected a reduction of even $3.00 in next year's tax rate---and the possibility of a $6.00 cut in the city property tax rate, while greeted enthusiastically, was seriously expected by only 14% of the home-owning public.

In one respect, Boston public attitudes toward city property taxes have changed significantly since the 1977 survey measurement. Compared to a high 65% of residents who felt that city property taxes were increasing at a faster rate than food, clothing or other consumer prices in 1977---only 47% hold that view today.

The proportion who feel that the city tax rate is increasing at a slower rate now totals 12%, compared to only 3% in 1977. An estimated 24% see Boston city taxes as increasing at the same rate as most other costs of living---while 20% expressed that opinion in 1977.

7. Crime Concerns

Resident overall perceptions of personal safety in their neighborhoods have remained unchanged during the interval since the 1977 survey, but feelings of "total" safety have diminished substantially.

Nearly three out of four Bostonians reported feeling safe for the most part in their neighborhoods in 1977, and that same proportion is reported in the current survey. The proportion of residents who reported feeling "totally safe" declined from 31% to 22% during that same period, suggesting that events during the past fifteen months have created a new uneasiness among large numbers of Boston's population where feelings of personal safety are concerned.

Nearly half of all Bostonians feel that the rate of crime in the city has increased during the past few years, compared to an estimated 30% who think that the city's crime rate has remained unchanged---and 20% who see Boston's crime rate as having decreased in recent years.

Only 32% of residents indicate increased crime rates in their own neighborhoods, suggesting that to many Bostonians, the rising crime rate is a problem facing the city that they are aware of or hear about, but don't necessarily experience in their own lives and locations. This greater sensitivity to a rising crime rate "elsewhere" in Boston contributes to the reported decline in numbers of Bostonians reporting "total safety" in their neighborhoods, even though the proportion who feel "relatively" safe has remained unchanged since the 1977 survey.

In 1978, Boston residents are more seriously concerned about crimes against property---auto theft, vandalism, burglary---and drugs/narcotics, than any other criminal activity in their neighborhoods.

A second tier of crime concerns includes store robberies, fire/arson, mugging, youth gangs and racial conflict---while serious concern about rape, gambling, prostitution, traffic accidents and mailbox theft are at relatively lower levels.

It should be noted, however, that public concerns about crime vary more significantly between Boston's neighborhoods than almost any other dimension of city life. Feelings of personal safety in the neighborhood are much more prevalent in upper socio-economic areas than in low income sections. Among Boston's black residents, one in three report feeling relatively unsafe in their neighborhoods today compared to only 22% among other residents. Variations in public perceptions of crime problems by neighborhood are even more pronounced when specific types of crime are discussed---with lower income areas evidencing much greater concern about street crime, mugging, fire/arson and robbery than is reported in average and above-average income neighborhoods.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

1. The Quality of Life in Boston vs. Other Major Cities

FINDING: Comparing the quality of life in Boston with other major cities across the nation, nearly three out of four Boston residents in 1978 feel that they live about the same or better than residents of other cities. Upper socio-economic households and relative newcomers to Boston are more likely to rate the city better than others, while lower income families and black residents in particular are more likely to rate Boston residents as worse off than persons living elsewhere in America.

DISCUSSION:

A large majority (74%) of Bostonians judge the quality of living conditions in their city to be better (30%) or at least the same (44%) as conditions in other major U.S. cities. Fewer than one in four (23%) feels that Boston residents are not as well off as are those who live in other cities.

Residents' perceptions of the overall quality of life in Boston tend to follow their own general sense of well-being and the quality of their individual lives. Upper socio-economic persons are more positive in their judgement of the quality of life in the city than are their less favored neighbors. Thus, college graduates express the opinion that Boston residents are "better off" than persons living in other major cities to a significantly greater extent (49%) than do those who lack a high school degree (23%). Conversely, college graduates are less likely to judge the lot of Boston residents as "worse" (19%) than are non-high school graduates (29%).

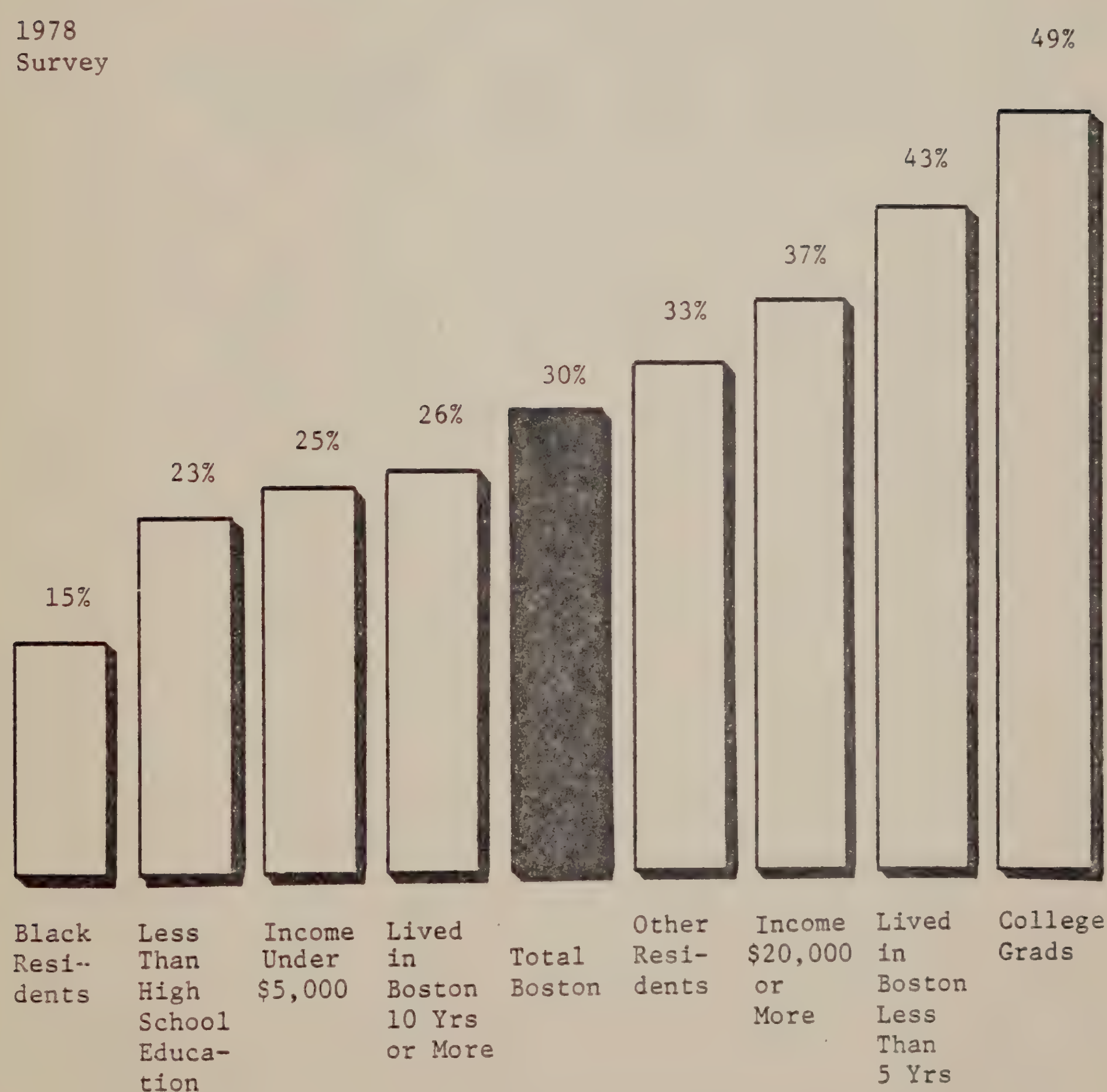
A direct correlation exists between attitudes toward life in Boston and the individual's economic well being, as indicated by the level of his income. An estimated 37% of those in the upper income brackets ($20,000 per year and over) feel that the Boston resident fares better than those who live in other major cities. By comparison, 34% of those in the $15,000 to $19,999 income group, 32% of those with incomes between $10,000 and $14,999, 28% of those whose income is between $5,000 and $9,999, and only 25% of those in the under $5,000 income category judge residents of Boston to be "better off."

The generally favorable attitude toward life in the city held by members of the community who are upscale on the socio-economic continuum is even more pronounced among newcomers to Boston. In general, the shorter the length of time a person has lived in the city the more favorable his attitude. An estimated 43% of those who have lived in Boston for fewer than five years rate living in Boston as better than in other cities. In contrast, only 32% of those in the city for five to ten years, and only 26% of those who have lived in Boston for ten years or more are as positive in their point of view concerning life in the city.

The negative perception of the quality of life in Boston---that its residents are not as well off as those in other major cities---which is held most strongly by those with lower incomes (30%) and with less than high school educations (29%), is stated even more emphatically by members of the black community (34%). Among blacks, only 15% judge the quality of life in Boston to be better than in other American cities.

SUMMARY

Percentage of Selected Population Groups Who Consider Quality of Living Conditions in Boston Better Than In Other cities



Comparison of
Quality of Living Conditions in
Boston to Other Major Cities

By Education of Household Head

	Total Boston	Non High School Grad	High School Grad	Some College	College Grad
	%	%	%	%	%
Better	30	23	22	33	49
Same	44	41	54	37	32
Worse	23	29	22	23	19
Don't Know	3	7	2	7	-

Comparison of
Quality of Living Conditions in
Boston to Other Major Cities

	Total Boston	By Household Income: Under $5,000	$5,000 to $9,999	$10,000 to $14,999	$15,000 to $19,999	$20,000 and Over
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Better	30	25	28	32	34	37
Same	44	39	39	43	48	41
Worse	23	30	27	21	17	22
Don't Know	3	6	6	4	1	-

	Total Boston	Comparison of Quality of Living Conditions in Boston to Other Major Cities — By Length of Time in Boston: Under Five Years	Five to Ten Years	Over Ten Years
	%	%	%	%
Better	30	43	32	26
Same	44	38	34	46
Worse	23	13	29	25
Don't Know	3	6	5	3

Comparison of
Quality of Living Conditions in
Boston to Other Major Cities

	Total Boston	Black Residents	Other Residents
	%	%	%
Better	30	15	33
Same	44	44	43
Worse	23	34	21
Don't Know	3	7	3

2. Conditions in Boston Today

FINDING: Compared to attitude ratings generated in 1977, Bostonians indicate that conditions in the city have improved somewhat in the recent past, and express substantial optimism regarding further improvements anticipated in the future. This expression of optimism regarding the future of their city cuts across most demographic boundaries, with black residents anticipating relatively greater progress toward improved conditions in Boston than any other population subgroup.

DISCUSSION:

Boston residents in 1978 appear to be better satisfied with the condition of their city, and considerably more optimistic as to the outlook for the future, than they were in the spring of 1977. The 1977 measurement of attitudes toward conditions in Boston might be summarized by the statement: "conditions in Boston today are not as favorable as they were in the recent past, and the outlook is one of no improvement and possibly a continuation of the decline." The 1978 measurement allows for a much more positive summarization: "conditions today are better than in the past, and there is a strong likelihood of continued improvement."

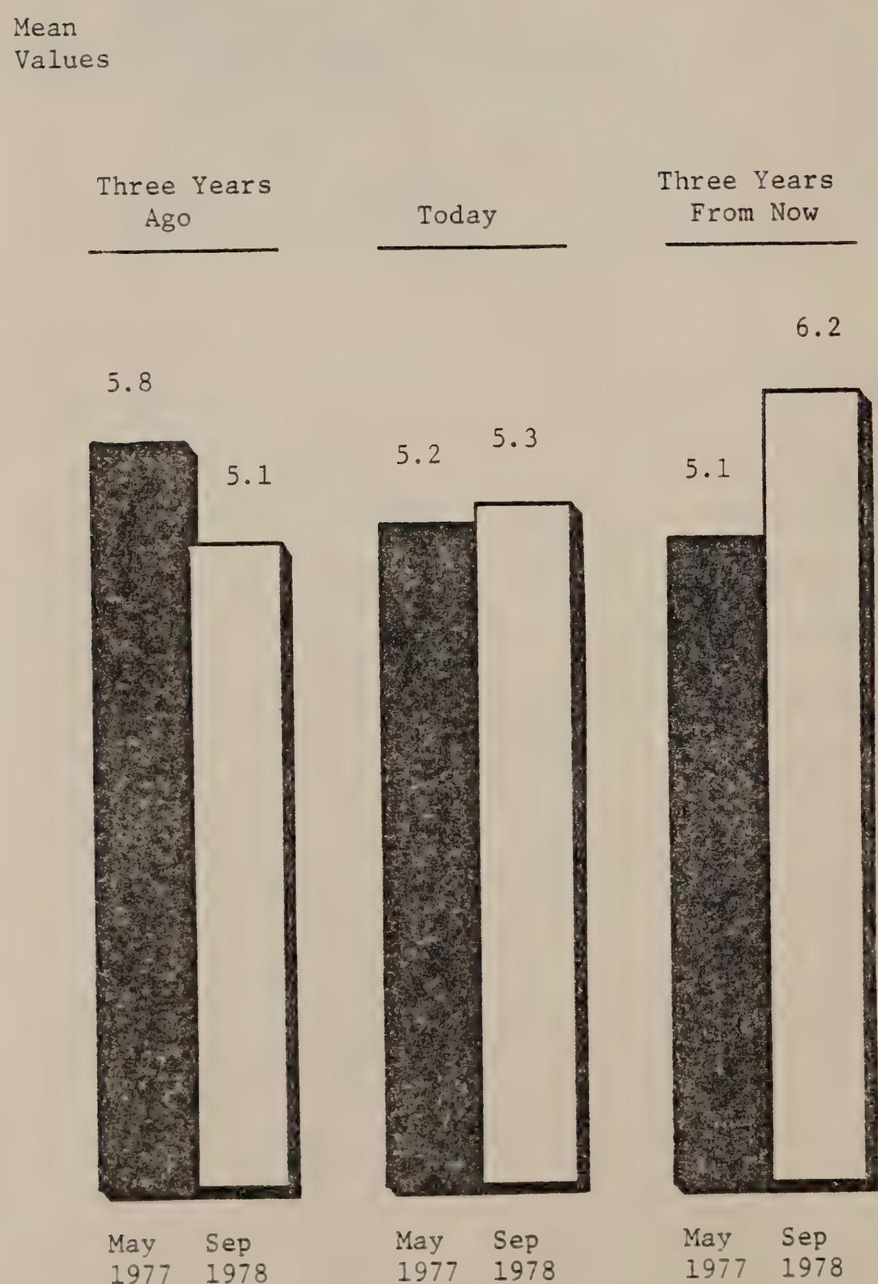
Ratings of
Conditions in Boston

Mean values based on ratings from 1 to 10

	May 1977	Sept 1978
Conditions in Boston Three Years Ago	5.8	5.1
Conditions in Boston Today	5.2	5.3
Conditions in Boston Three Years From Now	5.1	6.2

Ratings of
Conditions
in Boston

1978 vs. 1977



A comparison of the two measurements, then, indicates that a considerable improvement in resident attitudes toward the city and its future has occurred over the intervening fifteen month period.

Those variables which influence judgements as to the quality of life in Boston as compared to other cities also tend to effect the perception of general conditions in Boston as they exist at present. Those in the "over $20,000" income group rate conditions in Boston today at a higher level (5.8) than do those with incomes of less than $5,000 (5.1). College graduates are also more favorably disposed toward the current status of the city (5.8) than are those with no high school diploma (4.9). Newcomers (residing in Boston for fewer than five years) assigned a 5.7 rating to conditions today as compared to a rating of 5.1 among longer term (over ten years) residents. And, again, as with the quality of life comparative judgement, black residents are less satisfied with Boston today (4.8) than are others (5.3).

But the sense of optimism for improved general conditions in the city in the years to come cuts across nearly all demographic groupings---education, income, length of residence, and ethnic background. College graduates predict improvement in over-all conditions in the city (from a rating of 5.8 now to 6.6 three years from now) to about the same degree as non-high school graduates (4.9 now to 5.9 in three years).

Those with incomes under $5,000 see an improvement in conditions (5.1 now to 6.4 in three years) to an even greater extent than those with incomes of $20,000 and above (5.8 now to 6.3 in three years)---and optimism in the black community (4.8 now to 6.3 in three years) is considerably greater than it is among others (5.3 now to 6.1 in three years).

Only those in the upper age groupings (65 and over) fail to meet the generally high level of optimism demonstrated by individuals in other categories. While these older residents also exhibit a sense of optimism, their rating of current conditions (5.1) rises to only 5.7 when asked to forecast the state of conditions three years from now.

Ratings of Conditions
in Boston
(Mean values based on ratings from 1 to 10)

		By Household Income				
	Total Boston	Under $5,000	$5,000 to $9,999	$10,000 to $14,999	$15,000 to $19,999	$20,000 and Over
Conditions in Boston						
Three years ago	5.1	4.9	5.2	5.1	5.4	5.5
Today	5.3	5.1	5.2	5.2	5.7	5.8
Three years from now	6.2	6.4	6.2	6.3	6.6	6.3

Ratings of Conditions
in Boston
(Mean values based on ratings from 1 to 10)

Conditions in Boston	Total Boston	Black Residents	Other Residents
Three Years Ago	5.1	5.1	5.1
Today	5.3	4.8	5.3
Three Years From Now	6.2	6.3	6.1

		Ratings of Conditions in Boston (Mean values based on ratings from 1 to 10)		
		By Length of Time in Boston		
Conditions in Boston	Total Boston	Under Five Years	Five to Ten Years	Over Ten Years
Three Years Ago	5.1	5.0	5.2	5.1
Today	5.3	5.7	5.5	5.1
Three Years From Now	6.2	6.7	6.2	6.0

Ratings of Conditions in Boston
(Mean values based on ratings from 1 to 10)

Conditions in Boston	Total Boston	By Education of Household Head: Non High School Grad	High School Grad	Some Coll-ege	College Grad-uate
Three Years Ago	5.1	5.2	5.1	4.8	5.4
Today	5.3	4.9	5.2	5.2	5.8
Three Years From Now	6.2	5.9	6.1	6.1	6.6

Ratings of Conditions in Boston
(Mean values based on ratings from 1 to 10)

		By Respondent Age				
	Total Boston	18 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 49	50 to 64	65 and Over
Conditions in Boston						
Three Years Ago	5.1	5.0	5.1	5.3	4.9	5.2
Today	5.3	5.4	5.6	5.1	5.2	5.1
Three Years From Now	6.2	6.3	6.3	6.1	6.5	5.7

3. Conditions in Boston's Neighborhoods Today

FINDING: The same expression of confidence and optimism regarding Boston's future extends to an even greater degree in connection with the city's neighborhoods. Residents rate conditions in their neighborhoods in 1978 as relatively unchanged during the past three years---somewhat more favorable than conditions in the city as a whole ---but look to even greater improvements.

DISCUSSION:

Residents' perceptions of the state of current conditions in their neighborhoods are higher than those which reflect their view of city conditions in general. The higher level of their perception applies to their view of conditions as they existed in the past as well as to their optimism regarding the outlook for the future.

Ratings of
Conditions in Boston and in Neighborhood

Mean values based on ratings from 1 to 10

	Boston	Neighborhood
Conditions Three Years Ago	5.1	5.8
Conditions today	5.3	5.9
Conditions Three years from now	6.2	6.6

While residents note relatively little change in neighborhood conditions in the recent past, their optimism in terms of expectations for improving neighborhood conditions over the next three years is about as strong as that expressed for improvement in city-wide conditions over the same period of time.

Optimism as to the future of the neighborhoods cuts across all demographic groupings. It is as evident among the low income group (with a mean rating estimate of future conditions of 6.7) as it is among the upper income category (6.9). Renters are optimistic about the future of their neighborhoods (6.4) to about the same extent as home owners (6.7)---and black residents maintain an even more optimistic outlook for the future of their neighborhoods (6.8) than other residents (6.5).

	Total Boston	By Respondent Age: 18-24	25-34	35-49	50-64	65 and over
		Ratings of Conditions in Neighborhoods (Mean values based on ratings from 1 to 10)				
Conditions in Neighborhood						
Three years ago	5.8	5.4	5.5	5.8	6.2	6.1
Today	5.9	5.7	5.9	6.2	5.8	6.2
Three years from now	6.6	6.3	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.3

Ratings of Conditions
in Neighborhoods
(Mean values based on ratings from 1 to 10)

		By Household Income				
	Total Boston	Under $5,000	$5,000 to $9,999	$10,000 to $14,999	$15,000 to $19,999	$20,000 and Over
Conditions in Neighborhoods						
Three years ago	5.8	5.1	5.7	5.7	6.2	6.4
Today	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.5	6.5	6.7
Three years from now	6.6	6.7	6.5	6.5	7.0	6.9

Ratings of Conditions
in Neighborhoods
(Mean values based on ratings from 1 to 10)

Conditions in Neighborhood	Total Boston	Black Residents	Other Residents
Three years ago	5.8	5.2	5.8
Today	5.9	5.4	6.0
Three years ago	6.6	6.8	6.5

Ratings of Conditions
in Neighborhoods
(Mean values based on ratings from 1 to 10)

By Home Owners vs. Renters

Conditions in Neighborhood	Total Boston	Home Owners	Renters
Three years ago	5.8	6.3	5.3
Today	5.9	6.3	5.6
Three years from now	6.6	6.7	6.4

4. <u>Public Evaluation of Specific City Services and Facilities</u>

<u>FINDING</u>: On a 1-10 rating scale, against a norm of 5.3 for conditions in the city of Boston as a whole, residents assigned significantly higher ratings to such specific services as <u>fire protection</u>, <u>arts and cultural facilities</u>, <u>libraries</u>, <u>garbage collection</u>, <u>programs for the elderly</u>, <u>hospitals</u>, <u>shopping facilities</u>, <u>street lighting</u> and <u>mass transportation</u>. Services like <u>police protection</u>, <u>parks and playgrounds</u>, <u>street sweeping</u>, and <u>control of pornography</u> were also assigned above-average ratings, but at more intermediate levels.

Services like <u>snow removal</u>, <u>street noise levels</u>, <u>conditions of neighborhoods</u> and other city government services received only average ratings from the Boston public in 1978---and residents expressed significant disapproval by assigning extremely low ratings to the city's <u>property tax rates</u>, <u>public schools</u>, <u>race relations</u> and <u>pollution/air quality</u>.

<u>DISCUSSION:</u>

Boston residents sampled in the survey were presented with a list of twenty-one selected services and conditions provided or influenced by the city and asked to evaluate each of them on the basis of their own personal perceptions, using a scale from 1 (the most negative evaluation) to 10 (the most positive evaluation).

The greatest degree of satisfaction as evidenced by the ratings was expressed for the city's fire protection facilities with a mean rating value of 7.6. All segments of Boston's population are in agreement in their assessment of the fire protection offered by the city as the one city service with which they are most satisfied.

Next highest in the rankings of city services are the related items of the city's arts and cultural programs (7.0) and its libraries (6.9). Again, there is unanimity across all population and demographic segments in the expression of satisfaction with these programs.

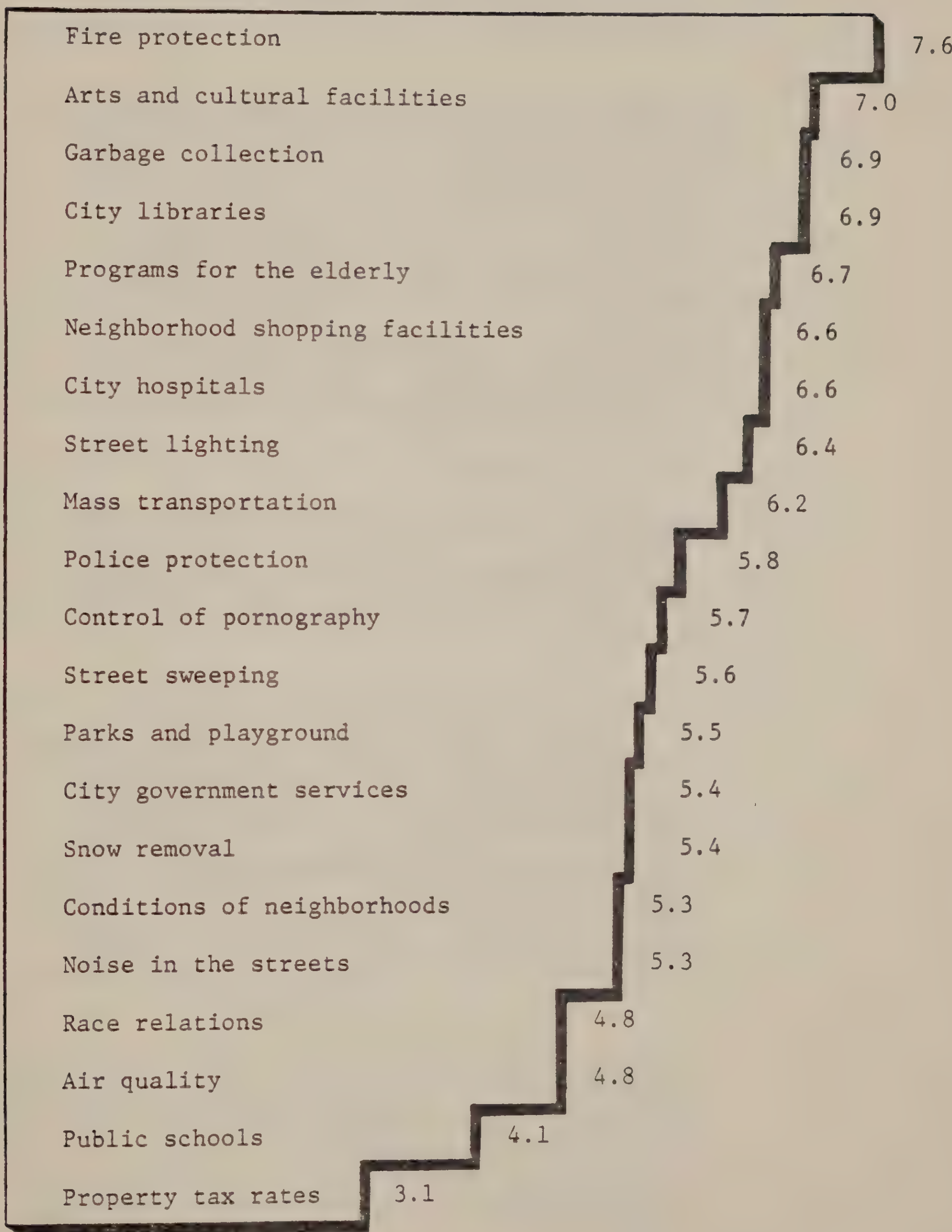
Other items which residents ranked high on the list of services with which they find greatest satisfaction are garbage collection (6.9), programs for the elderly (6.7), city hospitals (6.6), shopping facilities (6.6), street lighting (6.4) and mass transportation (6.2).

Five city services were rated above the norm, but at significantly lower levels than the top rated services. These are: police protection (5.8), control of pornography (5.7), street sweeping (5.6) and parks and playgrounds (5.5). In-so-far as police protection is concerned, there were no meaningful variations in the ratings across any demographic groupings except for that of the respondent's age. Younger adults tend to give Boston's police lower ratings than do older members of the community. Respondents age 25-34, for instance, rated police protection at 5.4 while those in the over 65 age group evaluated police with a rating of 6.3. City services and conditions which were rated at about average levels by Boston residents included snow removal (5.4), the levels of noise in the streets (5.3), and conditions of the neighborhoods (5.3).

Significant levels of dissatisfaction appear to center around four services and conditions which were given the lowest evaluative ratings: the quality of air in the city (4.8), the status of race relations (4.8), the public schools (4.1), and at the bottom of the ranking, the property tax rate (3.1).

Ratings of
Specific City
Services and
Facilities

Mean
Values



5. Public Perceptions of Required City Budget Modifications

FINDING: Boston looks to city government for significant budget increases in a wide range of city services and functions. Indexed on the basis of net incremental increases over existing budget levels, social assistance programs for the elderly and the handicapped top the list of public priorities for budget increases---along with increased spending for street repair, the Housing Improvement Program, public schools, environmental protection and programs to revitalize Boston's economy.

Significant budget increases are also recommended, at more intermediate levels, for city hospitals, snow removal, police and fire protection, parks/playing fields, and public housing.

Lesser net budget increases were indicated for street lighting, community schools, courts and correctional institutions, mass transit, street sweeping and sanitation/garbage collection---with minimal increases recommended for city libraries, arts/recreational and entertainment programs. No net budget change was recommended for planting trees on residential streets, and a net reduction in budget was indicated for the Little City Hall program.

A polarization of the Boston public is noted in connection with recommended budgeting for public schools and public housing---that is, substantial proportions of the population calling for budget increases in these services, but significantly large numbers of residents opposing that view and calling for cutbacks in these same program areas.

DISCUSSION:

Boston residents are generally more inclined to favor increases in city budget expenditures than they are to suggest that budgetary programs be cut back. Presented with a list of twenty-four programs which comprise the major portion of Boston city government's budget for services to its citizens, the proportion of Bostonians who suggested budgetary increases for services outweighed those recommending cutbacks by a wide margin. In twelve out of twenty-four budget areas, budget increases were the dominant view, compared to only one budget area with more calls for cutbacks than any other response---and eleven out of twenty-four budget areas where "hold the line" responses outweighed all other suggestions.

The most significant budget increases were called for in connection with programs to aid the handicapped. A clear majority (59%) favor an increased expenditure in this area, with 38% suggesting "some increase" and a high 21% recommending a "major increase." Major expenditure increases were also recommended for public schools (21%), the Housing Improvement Program (18%), street repair (18%), public housing (17%), environmental protection (17%), revitalization of the city's economy (16%) and narcotic addiction programs (15%).

Some polarity of opinion exists in recommendations for increasing vs. decreasing expenditures for the city's schools and public housing programs. While the weight of public opinion calls for increases in these budgets, there are significantly large minorities who favor a decrease in expenditures in these two areas. Some 24% of Boston residents favor a cutback in the outlay for public housing---a viewpoint more strongly reflected among upper income groups (29%) than among those with lower incomes (21%). Further, while a sizeable 47% call for at least some increases in the school budget, 20% favor cutting the budget for public schools. In this instance it is older residents who would prefer to see less funding for schools (26%), rather than the younger residents (14%). Neighborhoods with higher incidences of private school attendance also call for greater cutbacks in public school budgets (28%) than the citywide average (20%).

Other programs which also tend to polarize opinions are: environmental protection (15% suggested budget decreases), economic revitalization (16%) and narcotics addiction programs (16% suggested cutbacks).

Budgetary cuts are also called for in connection with: mass transit (20%), community schools (16%), city sponsored art, entertainment and recreational programs (19%), courts and correction institutions (22%) tree planting activities (21%), and LIttle City Halls (36%).

	Suggested Increases/Decreases In The City Budget				
	Increase		No Change	Decrease	Not Sure
	Total	Major			
	%	%	%	%	%
Programs for the handicapped	59	21	29	5	7
Street repair	50	18	36	9	5
Programs for the elderly	48	14	38	6	8
Housing Improvement Program	48	18	28	15	9
Public schools	47	21	25	20	8
Programs to vitalize Boston's economy	46	16	31	16	8
City hospitals	44	13	37	11	8
Parks and playing fields	44	12	39	11	6
Police	43	12	43	10	4
Fire protection	43	10	47	5	5
Environmental protection and pollution	42	17	36	15	7
Narcotic addiction programs	41	15	35	16	8
Public housing	40	17	27	24	9
Snow removal	39	12	48	8	5
Street lighting	37	9	51	8	4
Community schools	35	10	37	16	12
Courts and correctional institutions	35	12	34	22	9
Mass transportation	34	10	40	20	6
Art, recreational & entertainment programs	31	8	44	19	6
Planting trees on residential streets	31	7	42	21	6
Street sweeping	27	9	52	15	6
City libraries	25	4	60	8	7
Sanitation and garbage collection	23	6	57	15	5
Little City Halls	16	3	41	36	7

A computerized weighting program, designed to analyze Boston public opinion on budget changes in terms of <u>net incremental budget increases vs. decreases indicated</u>, yields the following rank order of budget priorities for the twenty-four service or program areas evaluated in the 1978 survey.

	Index
Programs for the handicapped	100
Street repair	77
Housing Improvement Program	69
Programs for the elderly	68
Public schools	61
Environmental protection/pollution programs	61
City hospitals	59
Snow removal	56
Programs to revitalize Boston's economy	56
Fire protection	52
Parks and playing fields	52
Police	45
Street lighting	42
Narcotics addiction programs	40
Public housing	37
Community schools	32
Courts and correctional institutions	28
Mass transit	26
Street sweeping	24
Sanitation and garbage collection	18
City libraries	18
Art, recreational and entertainment programs	11
Planting trees on residential streets	0
Little City Halls	-61

Recognizing that most Boston residents could not be expected to know the actual budget levels currently in force for each of the twenty-four service or program areas evaluated in the 1978 survey---and that prior knowledge of actual dollar levels budgeted could influence survey responses---a sub-sample of the total Boston population was presented with 1978 budget levels for each service or program evaluated. For example, the sub-sample was given a current budget level of $200,000, and then asked to indicate their budget recommendation for the city's <u>programs for the handicapped</u>. In the case of <u>street repair</u>, the sub-sample was given a current budget level of $6,000,000 and then asked to recommend a continuation or modifications in that amount.

Analyzed on the basis of survey findings among the sub-sample given actual current budget dollar levels for each service or program, compared with the sample who indicated their recommendations with no prior exposure to actual budget levels---no significant differences in responses was observed. The same rank order of budge priorities was obtained, regardless of whether or not respondents knew in advance what current spending levels for each service or program were.

6. Pride in the City and Its Neighborhoods

FINDING: The high levels of pride in the city, expressed by Boston residents in the 1977 survey, have increased even further during the past fifteen months. The same holds true for the even greater pride that Bostonians have in their neighborhoods---higher levels than were expressed for the city as a whole, and up slightly from the 1977 measurement.

DISCUSSION:

Over three quarters (79%) of the Boston population express pride in their city---a level somewhat higher than the 73% observed in the 1977 survey.

	May 1977	Sept. 1978
	%	%
Pride in Boston		
A great deal	38	41
Some	35	38
Only a little	13	13
Hardly any	12	7
Not sure	2	1

Similarly, the level of pride in which Bostonians hold their own neighborhoods has also increased slightly during the fifteen months between the two surveys. In the 1978 survey a majority (52%) expressed "a great deal" of neighborhood pride, with 29% reporting "some pride" in the neighborhood---levels marginally higher than those reported in the earlier survey.

	May 1977	Sept 1978
	%	%
Pride in Neighborhood		
A great deal	50	52
Some	29	29
Only a little	10	11
Hardly any	10	7
Not sure	1	1

The findings of the 1978 survey, then, serve to emphasize the fact that Bostonians, by and large, tend to have considerably more positive feelings for their local neighborhoods than they do for the city as a whole.

The demographic correlates of pride in Boston are not the same as those that apply to pride in the neighborhood. The longer the period of residence in the city, for instance, the greater the neighborhood pride. Some 39% of those who have lived in Boston less than five years express a great deal of neighborhood pride, while 56% of those in the city for more than ten years make this response.

On the other hand, length of residence exerts some negative impact on expressed pride in the city: 13% of newcomers say that they have "only a little" or "hardly any" pride in Boston, while 21% of the longer-term residents express this negative point of view. It would appear that pride in the neighborhood increases over time, replacing pride in the city.

The correlation of age of respondent with pride in the city and in the neighborhood presents another unusual pattern. Older residents, who tend to be longer time residents, are far more favorably disposed toward their neighborhoods: 61% claim "a great deal of pride" as compared to only 38% among younger residents.

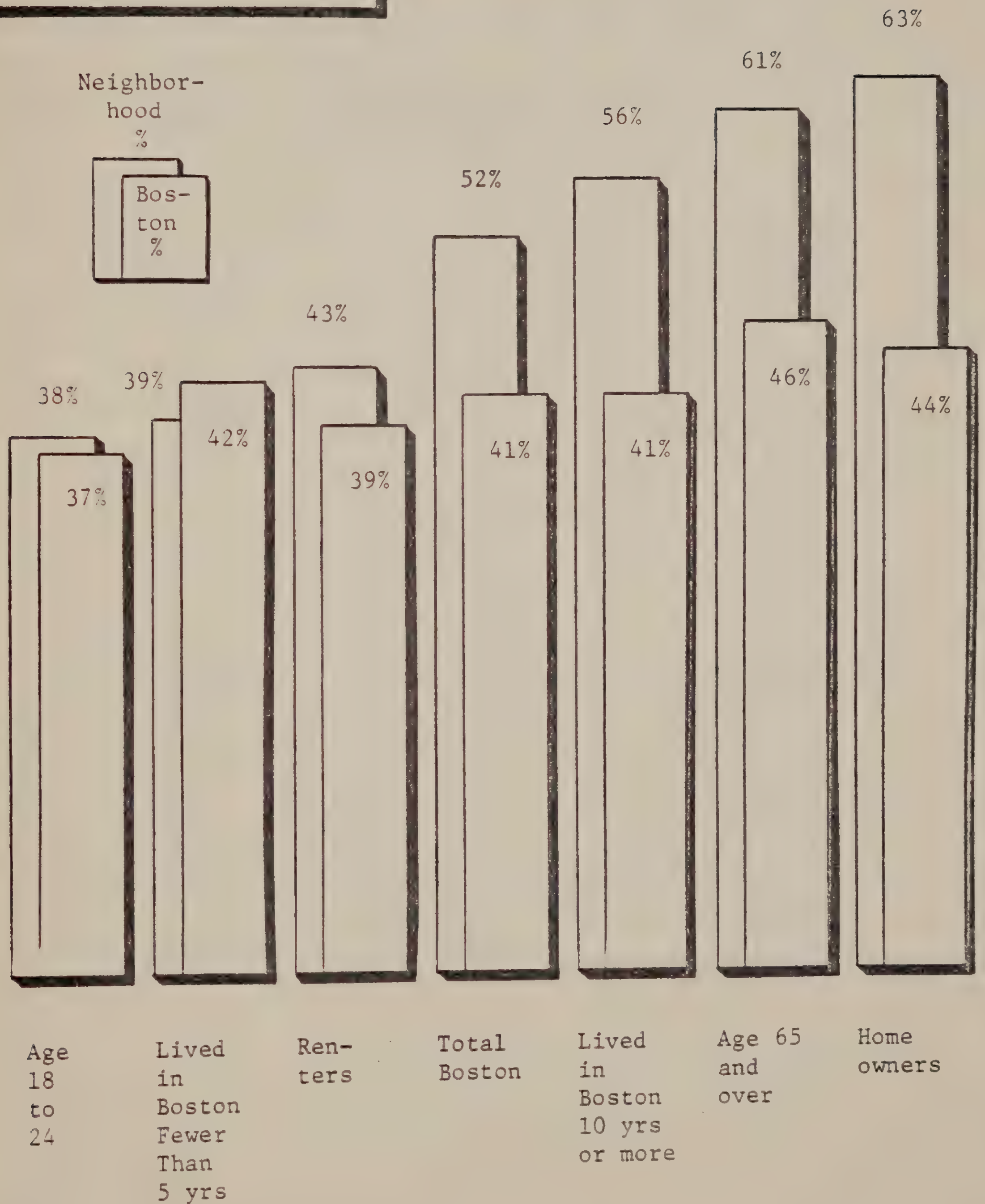
Pride in the city, however, varies according to age in a less consistent configuration. The proportion of those who say they have "only a little" or "hardly any" pride in the city increases from 17% among 18-24 year olds to 19% among 25-34 year olds, and to 25% among those aged 35-49. This negative segment then declines to 22% at age 50-64 and to only 15% negative statement among those 65 and over. Pride in the city, then, tends to be greatest among the city's younger and older residents.

Home ownership also bears greater relationship to neighborhood pride than to pride in the city. Some 63% of those who own their own homes say they have a "great deal" of pride in the neighborhood compared to 43% of those who rent their dwellings. The percentages who claim a "great deal" of pride in the city are narrower: 44% among home owners and 39% among renters.

Renters and home owners, then, both tend to hold their neighborhoods in greater esteem than they do the city, but the variation in the home owner population is significantly greater.

SUMMARY

Percentage of Selected Population Groups Who Have "A Great Deal" of Pride in Neighborhood and in Boston



	Total Boston	Pride in Boston and in Neighborhood — By Length of Time in Boston: Under Five Years	Five to Ten Years	Over Ten Years
	%	%	%	%
Pride in Boston				
A great deal	41	42	42	41
Some	38	45	38	36
Only a little	13	8	12	14
Hardly any	7	5	7	7
Not sure	1	-	1	2
Pride in Neighborhood				
A great deal	52	39	46	56
Some	29	41	33	23
Only a little	11	11	13	10
Hardly any	7	8	5	8
Not sure	1	1	3	1

Pride in Boston
and in Neighborhood

By Respondent Age

	Total Boston	18-24	25-34	35-49	50-64	65 and Over
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Pride in Boston						
A great deal	41	37	48	32	46	46
Some	38	46	33	41	30	38
Only a little	13	10	11	15	16	13
Hardly any	7	7	8	10	6	2
Not sure	1	-	-	2	2	1
Pride in Neighborhood						
A great deal	52	38	52	49	63	61
Some	29	39	28	29	18	24
Only a little	11	9	12	12	13	9
Hardly any	7	13	7	7	5	6
Not sure	1	1	1	3	1	-

Pride in Boston
and in Neighborhood

	Total Boston	By Home Owners vs. Renters: Home Owners	Renters
	%	%	%
Pride in Boston			
A great deal	41	44	39
Some	38	36	39
Only a little	13	10	15
Hardly any	7	8	6
Not sure	1	2	1
Pride in Neighborhood			
A great deal	52	63	43
Some	29	23	34
Only a little	11	8	13
Hardly any	7	5	8
Not sure	1	1	2

7. Residential Mobility/Future Commitment to the Neighborhood and the City

FINDING: The estimated one in five Boston residents seriously considering changing residences during the next three years is in line with national norms for urban population centers. However, the fact that more than one in four residents, regardless of income level or home owner vs. renter status, would prefer to remain in their same neighborhood in the future, confirms the Boston population's extraordinary stability and commitment to neighborhoods indicated in other sections of the 1978 study.

As a city, Boston exerts significant "magnet" influence on the future residential plans and aspirations of its citizens. Three out of four Boston residents would prefer to remain within commuting distance of Boston during the next three years---including nearly half of all residents who would prefer to remain within the city proper.

The conditions and services that appeal disproportionately to residents most committed to remaining within the city limits in the future center around: convenient shopping facilities, job opportunities, neighborhood ethnicity, programs for the elderly and convenient transportation facilities.

The elements exerting greatest attraction away from the city involve resident demands for lower property taxes, better public school education, and more outdoor recreational facilities.

DISCUSSION:

The proportion of Bostonians who are seriously entertaining the notion of moving from their present residence within the next three years totals (22%) compared to an estimated 59% who say that they have not considered a move and that there is little or no likelihood that they will change residence in the near future.

	Likelihood of Moving
	%
Extremely likely	22
Somewhat likely	17
Not very likely	25
Not at all likely	34
Not sure	2

The likelihood of changing residence in the near future varies widely across a number of characteristics in the Boston resident population. Those groups which express a greater likelihood of moving are newcomers (47%), young adults 18-24 (45%), college graduates (38%), those whose preferred residence is away from Boston (34%), renters (32%), and those in business or the professions (32%). Residents least likely to change residence in the next three years are blue collar workers (21%), persons who have lived in the city for ten years or more (15%), those whose residential preference is their own neighborhood (11%), high school graduates (10%), home owners (9%), and persons age 65 or over (5%). Black residents are only slightly more inclined to move (29%) than others (22%).

	Total Boston	Likelihood of Moving in the Next Three Years — By Length of Time Lived in Boston: Under Five Years	Five to Ten Years	Over Ten Years
	%	%	%	%
Extremely likely	22	47	28	15
Somewhat likely	17	21	21	15
Not very likely	25	18	21	28
Not at all likely	34	12	29	41
Not sure	2	2	1	1

	Total Boston	Likelihood of Moving in the Next Three Years — By Respondent Age				
		18-24	25-34	35-49	50-64	65 and over
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Extremely likely	22	45	34	16	7	5
Somewhat likely	17	19	18	18	13	13
Not very likely	25	20	22	27	31	27
Not at all likely	34	16	24	38	47	54
Not sure	2	-	2	1	2	1

	Likelihood of Moving in the Next Three Years				
		By Education of Household Head			
	Total Boston	Non High School Grad	High School Grad	Some College	College Grad
	%	%	%	%	%
Extremely likely	22	14	10	35	38
Somewhat likely	17	11	15	23	19
Not very likely	25	29	32	16	20
Not at all likely	34	44	40	25	23
Not sure	2	2	3	1	-

	Likelihood of Moving in the Next Three Years				
		By Future Residence Preferred			
	Total Boston	Same Neigh-borhood	Other Part of Boston	Sub-urbs	Else-where
	%	%	%	%	%
Extremely likely	22	11	22	27	34
Somewhat likely	17	6	22	22	20
Not very likely	25	23	32	27	18
Not at all likely	34	57	21	23	26
Not sure	2	3	3	1	2

	Total Boston	Likelihood of Moving in the Next Three Years — By Home Owners vs. Renters: Home Owners	Renters
	%	%	%
Extremely likely	22	9	32
Somewhat likely	17	16	18
Not very likely	25	27	24
Not at all likely	34	46	25
Not sure	2	2	1

	Total Boston	Likelihood of Moving in the Next Three Years — By Occupation of Household Head: Blue Collar	White Collar	Business/ Professional
	%	%	%	%
Extremely likely	22	21	27	32
Somewhat likely	17	14	18	19
Not very likely	25	27	20	24
Not at all likely	34	36	33	25
Not sure	2	2	2	-

	Total Boston	Likelihood of Moving in the Next Three Years	
		Black Residents	Other Residents
	%	%	%
Extremely likely	22	29	21
Somewhat likely	17	9	18
Not very likely	25	27	25
Not at all likely	34	35	34
Not sure	2	-	2

When asked where they might move if circumstances should force them to do so, Boston residents express a strong commitment to their city and their present neighborhood. Nearly half (47%) of all Bostonians would prefer to remain in the city---with more choosing to remain in their present neighborhood (29%) than preferring another one of the city's neighborhoods (18%). An additional 30% expressed a preference for an area outside of Boston, but within a circumference which would allow them to commute to the city for employment, entertainment and the other attractions to be found in the city. Over three-quarters (77%) of all Boston residents, therefore, if faced with the necessity of moving would choose to remain within the city proper or in a peripheral community. Fewer than one in five (18%) would choose to abandon the city completely.

	Future Residential Preference	
	%	
Same Neighborhood	29	47% City
Other neighborhood in Boston	18	
Out of Boston, but within commuting distance	25	30% Suburbs
Another state, but within commuting distance	5	
Some other place in Massachusetts, but within commuting distance	4	18% Away from Boston
Out of area	14	
Not sure	5	

No significant differences in future residential preferences are observed by home ownership, race or income levels. Faced with the necessity to move, home owners would choose to remain in the neighborhood (29%) to about the same extent as renters (30%). With the exception of those in the lowest income grouping (48% of those with incomes under $5,000 would choose to remain in the neighborhood), there are no meaningful variations in the preference for remaining in the neighborhood related to income levels. More than 25% of those with incomes of $5,000 or more would prefer to remain in their present neighborhoods.

There are, however, real differences in the extent to which residents are rooted to their neighborhoods which are related to the age of the individual. Generally, older persons express a significantly greater degree of attachment to the neighborhood than younger ones. Faced with a move in the future, only 20% of those age 18 to 24 would choose another residence in the same neighborhood compared to 41% of those in the 65 or over age group.

The commitment to remain in the city of Boston---that is, either in the same neighborhood or another part of the city---is also stronger among older residents in the 65 and over age category (56%) than among younger residents age 18-24 (39%). Further, the attraction of remaining in the city is greater among renters (52%) than home owners (41%), and among black residents (54%) than other residents (47%).

Suburban living has greater appeal to younger Bostonians than to older residents. If circumstances were to force a move, one-third (33%) of those in the 18-24 age group would choose the suburbs, while fewer than one in five (18%) of residents aged 65 and over would make this choice.

The inclination to move away from the area entirely if a change in residence were necessary is more concentrated in the younger under 35 age range (25%) than it is among those who are in their middle 35-49 years (11%).

Future Residential Preference

By Home Owners vs. Renters

	Total Boston	Home Owners	Renters
	%	%	%
Same Neighborhood	29	29	30
Other neighborhood in Boston	18	12	22
TOTAL: Remain in Boston	47	41	52
Out of Boston, but within commuting distance	25	29	21
Another state, but within commuting distance	5	6	5
TOTAL: Suburbs	30	35	26
Some other place in Massachusetts, not within commuting distance	4	5	3
Out of the area	14	14	14
TOTAL: Away from Boston	18	19	17
Not sure	5	5	5

	Total Boston	Future Residential Preference By Household Income: Under $5,000	$5,000 to $9,999	$10,000 to $14,999	$15,000 to $19,999	$20,000 and Over
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Same neighborhood	29	48	26	25	30	33
Other neighborhood in Boston	18	16	22	12	16	13
TOTAL: Remain in Boston	47	64	48	37	46	46
Out of Boston, but within commuting distance	25	18	24	31	25	32
Another state, but within commuting distance	5	5	2	6	6	3
TOTAL: Suburbs	30	23	26	37	31	35
Some other place in Massachusetts, not within commuting distance	4	-	1	4	8	5
Out of the area	14	9	22	19	14	13
TOTAL: Away from Boston	18	9	23	23	22	18
Not sure	5	4	3	3	1	1

	Total Boston	Future Residential Preference — By Respondent Age: 18-24	25-34	35-49	50-64	65 and Over
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Same neighborhood	29	20	26	32	32	41
Other neighborhood in Boston	18	19	19	19	17	15
TOTAL: Remain in Boston	47	39	45	51	49	56
Out of Boston, but within commuting distance	25	27	30	25	21	18
Another state, but within commuting distance	5	6	2	9	7	-
TOTAL: Suburbs	30	33	32	34	28	18
Some other place in Massachusetts, not within commuting distance	4	4	5	2	5	4
Out of the area	14	21	17	9	12	14
TOTAL: Away from Boston	18	25	22	11	17	18
Not sure	5	3	1	4	6	8

	Total Boston	Future Residential Preference By Education of Household Head: Non High School Grad	High School Grad	Some Col-lege	Col-lege Grad
	%	%	%	%	%
Same neighborhood	29	41	29	26	24
Other neighborhood in Boston	18	17	19	19	17
TOTAL: Remain in Boston	47	58	48	45	41
Out of Boston, but within commuting distance	25	20	24	23	31
Another state, but within commuting distance	5	4	7	6	2
TOTAL: Suburbs	30	24	31	29	33
Some other place in Massachusetts, not within commuting distance	4	5	4	4	4
Out of area	14	7	12	20	20
TOTAL: Away from Boston	18	12	16	24	24
Not sure	5	6	5	2	2

	Total Boston	Future Residential Preference — By Length of Time in Boston: Under Five Years	Five to ten Years	Over Ten Years
	%	%	%	%
Same neighborhood	29	19	27	33
Other neighborhood in Boston	18	23	20	16
TOTAL: Boston	47	42	47	49
Out of Boston, but within commuting distance	25	29	18	24
Another state, but within commuting distance	5	6	6	5
TOTAL: Suburbs	30	35	24	29
Some other place in Massachusetts, not within commuting distance	4	2	2	5
Out of area	14	19	23	12
TOTAL: Away from Boston	18	21	25	17
Not Sure	5	2	4	5

Respondents' ratings of characteristics and conditions which contribute to the quality of living in a neighborhood, when analyzed according to the stated preference for living within or outside of the city, reveal certain factors which contribute disproportionately to the commitment to stay or to leave the city. Those characteristics which have disproportionately greater appeal to residents who are commited to remaining in the city involve: good transportation, shopping convenience, employment opportunities, ethnic similarities, and programs for the elderly. Quality of living characteristics and conditions which exert greater attraction away from the city concern the desire for: lower property taxes, better public schools, and the appeal of open spaces for outdoor recreation.

Ratings of Desirable Characteristics of Preferred Area of Residence

(INDICES: Mean value of ratings = 100)

	By residents' commitments to:	
	Remain in Boston	Move to Suburbs
Convenient public transportation	111	100
Convenient shopping faciliies	109	105
Programs for the elderly	101	97
Employment opportunities, good jobs	91	85
Neighbors of your own racial or ethnic background	84	74
Low property taxes	106	112
Good parks and recreational facilities	100	103
Good public schools	87	92

8. Attitudes Toward Citywide vs. Individual Neighborhood Programming

FINDING: Overwhelming majorities of the Boston public approve of city government focusing its attention on neighborhood programming, with most residents reporting satisfaction with the benefits they derive directly from those expenditures and activities. Further, Boston residents call for a virtually equal distribution of city government resources between programs tailored and directed to the needs of specific neighborhoods vs. those distributed across the city as a whole.

DISCUSSION:

In keeping with Boston residents' strong commitments to their neighborhoods, equally strong approval is assigned to the attention the city pays to programs directed to local communities. Asked whether attention to the neighborhoods was detrimental to the well-being of the city as a whole, the response was overwhelmingly negative (73%); that is, that attention to the neighborhoods does not detract from the city. Only 13% took the opposing view that the city may suffer if too much attention is paid to the neighborhoods, while 14% had no opinion.

Survey respondents were also asked whether or not they agree with the statement: "You and your family benefit directly from the money the city spends in (your neighborhood)." Again, the response was one of strong agreement (61%) with only 30% disagreeing and 9% not certain.

And finally, respondents were given a scale which allowed them to position themselves according to the dictates of their own perception as to how the city should distribute its attention and its expenditures to citywide projects as opposed to projects intended for the direct benefit of the neighborhoods. The mean value of the opinions expressed calls for an almost equal division of the city's attention and funds---47% to neighborhood programs and 53% to projects for the city as a whole. There were no significant variations from this ratio in any demographic or other sub-group of the population.

	Agreement/Disagreement On Citywide vs. Neighborhood Issues	
		%
The improvement of the city as a whole suffers when the city government concentrates most of its attention on the neighborhoods.	Agree	13
	Disagree	73
	Not sure	14
You and your family benefit directly from the money the city spends in (your neighborhood).	Agree	61
	Disagree	30
	Not sure	9

9. Perceived Trends in Boston's Crime Rate

FINDING: Resident overall perceptions of personal safety in their neighborhoods have remained unchanged during the interval since the 1977 survey, but feelings of "total" safety have diminished substantially.

Nearly three out of four Bostonians reported feeling relatively safe in their neighborhoods in 1977, and that same proportion is reported in the current survey. The proportion of residents who reported feeling "totally safe" declined from 31% to 22% during that same period, suggesting that events during the past fifteen months have created a new uneasiness among large numbers of Boston's population where feelings of personal safety are concerned.

Nearly half (45%) of all Bostonians feel that the rate of crime in the city has increased during the past few years, compared to an estimated 30% who think that the city's crime rate has remained unchanged---and 20% who see Boston's crime rate as having decreased in recent years.

Only 32% of residents indicate increased crime rates in their own neighborhoods however; suggesting that to many Bostonians. the rising crime rate is a problem facing the city that they are aware of or hear about, but don't necessarily experience in their own lives and locations.

DISCUSSION:

By and large, Bostonians' sense of relative safety in their own neighborhoods has lessened during the fifteen month interval between the 1977 and 1978 surveys. While the proportions who report feeling "safe" as opposed to those who feel "unsafe" remain all but unchanged from 1977, there has nevertheless been a marked downshifting in resident perceptions of the degree of their own personal safety.

	Feeling of Safety in Neighborhood	
	May 1977	Sept 1978
Feel totally safe	31	22
Feel fairly safe	43	53
Feel unsafe	26	24
Not sure	-	1

While three out of four residents in both surveys reported feeling "safe" in their neighborhoods, the proportion who feel "totally safe" dropped by nearly one-third---from 31% in 1977 to 22% in 1978. The proportion who say they feel only "fairly safe" climbed proportionately from 43% in 1977 to 53% in 1978.

The downward shift in resident perceptions of personal safety is consistent among men and women and across all age groups.

	Feeling of Safety in Neighborhood			
	Men		Women	
	May 1977	Sept 1978	May 1977	Sept 1978
	%	%	%	%
Feel totally safe	34	25	27	20
Feel fairly safe	45	54	42	52
Feel unsafe	21	20	30	27
Not sure	-	1	-	1

	Age 18-24		Age 25-34		Age 65 and over	
	May 1977	Sept 1978	May 1977	Sept 1978	May 1977	Sept 1978
	%	%	%		%	%
Feel totally safe	33	22	30	22	29	23
Feel fairly safe	41	56	45	57	43	50
Feel unsafe	25	22	23	21	27	26
Not sure	1	-	2	-	1	1

Closely related to the lessened sense of personal safety is the perception of an increase in criminal activity in the neighborhood and to an even greater extent in the entire city.

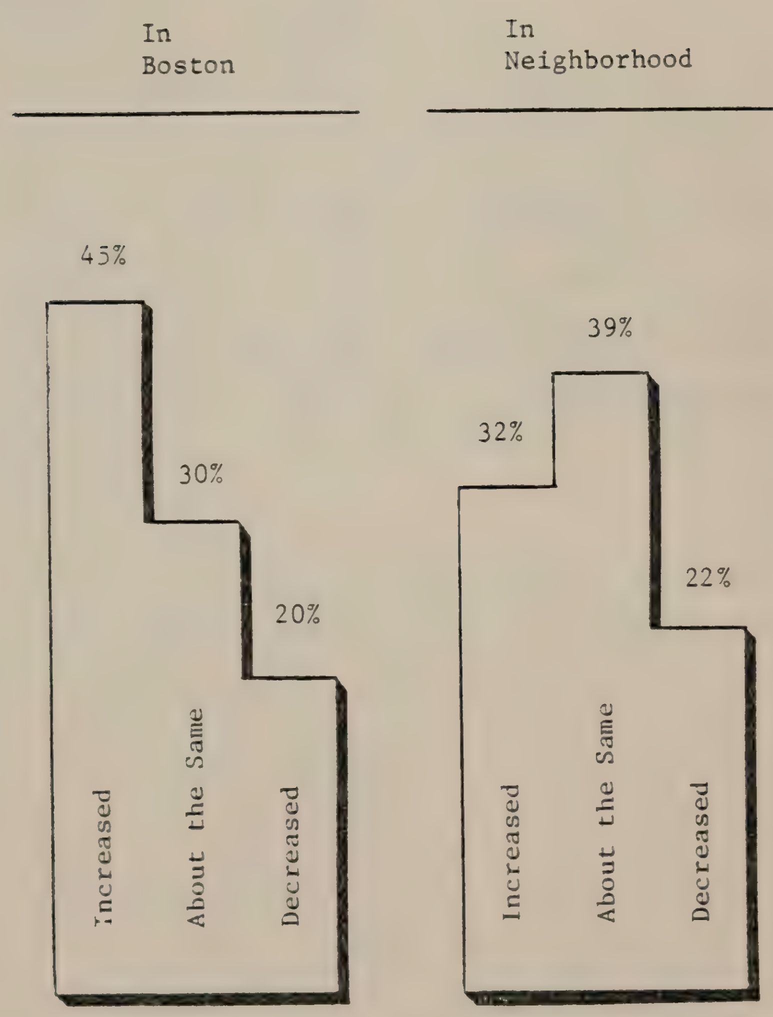
Nearly half (45%) of all Boston residents sense that the level of crime in the city has risen over the past few years---32% feel that it has increased "somewhat," and 13% say that it has increased "greatly." By comparison, 30% feel that the crime level has not changed, and only 20% have a sense of a decreasing crime rate in the city as a whole.

Concern about rising crime levels in respondents' own neighborhoods is only moderately less than is reported for the city as a whole. One in three (32%) respondents perceive criminal activity in their own locality to be on the rise in recent years, while 39% see the level as unchanged and nearly one in four (22%) has a sense of improving conditions.

	Perception of the Trend of the Level of Crime	
	In Boston	In the Neighborhood
	%	%
Increased greatly	13	7
Increased somewhat	32	25
About the same	30	39
Decreased somewhat	19	19
Decreased greatly	1	3
Not sure	6	6

SUMMARY

Perception of the Trend of the Level of Crime



10. Crime Concerns in the Neighborhood

FINDING: In 1978, Boston residents are more seriously concerned about crimes against property---auto theft, vandalism, burglary---and drugs/narcotics, than any other criminal activity in their neighborhoods.

A second tier of crime concerns includes store robberies, fire/arson, mugging, youth gangs and racial conflict---while serious concern about rape, gambling, prostitution, traffic accidents and mailbox theft are at relatively lower levels.

It should be noted, however, that public concerns about crime vary more significantly between Boston's neighborhoods than almost any other dimension of city life. Feelings of personal safety in the neighborhood are much more prevalent in upper socio-economic areas than in low income sections. Among Boston's black residents, one in three report feeling relatively unsafe in their neighborhoods today compared to only 22% among other residents. Variations in public perceptions of crime problems by neighborhood are even more pronounced when specific types of crimes are discussed---with lower income areas evidencing much greater concern about street crime, mugging, fire/arson and robbery than is reported in average and above-average income neighborhoods.

DISCUSSION:

Bostonians express considerable concern over the seriousness of crime problems in their neighborhoods, with nearly two out of three residents indicating that crimes against property cause them greatest anxiety---automobile theft, burglary and vandalism.

Drug related crimes, store robberies, fire or arson, youth gangs, muggings and racial conflict fall into the 40%-50% range in terms of resident ratings as "serious concerns" in their neighborhood.

	Neighborhood Crime Concerns		
	Serious	Not Serious	Not Sure
	%	%	%
Burglary	66	32	2
Auto theft	65	32	3
Vandalism	64	34	2
Drugs and narcotics	55	37	8
Store robbery	52	43	5
Fire, arson	49	49	2
Youth gangs	45	54	1
Muggings	44	53	3
Racial conflict	42	55	3
Traffic accidents	39	59	2
Rape	29	63	8
Mailbox theft	28	64	8
Gambling	20	71	9
Prostitution	16	75	9

Concern with crime and criminal activity is concentrated most heavily among residents in lower socio-economic groupings who tend to bear the greatest share of the burden of its consequences. And it is among these residents that the more personal type of crime---mugging, arson, rape and robbery---is uppermost in residents' anxieties. In addition, certain crimes that are of a relatively lower order of importance on a citywide basis---mailbox theft, gambling and prostitution---assume disproportionately greater significance in the lower socio-economic areas.

		Perception of Criminal Activity in Neighborhood as "Serious"	
		Upper vs. Lower Income Groups	
	Total Boston	Income Under $5,000	Income $20,000 and Over
	%	%	%
Burglary	66	65	67
Auto Theft	65	61	65
Vandalism	64	65	68
Drugs or Narcotics	55	51	52
Store robbery	52	59	46
Fire, arson	49	56	46
Youth gangs	45	45	45
Muggings	44	54	44
Racial conflict	42	38	46
Traffic accidents	39	42	42
Rape	29	34	25
Mailbox theft	28	35	19
Gambling	20	19	9
Prostitution	16	29	12

	Total	Neighborhood Crime Concerns: Black Residents	Other Residents
	%	%	%
Burglary	66	64	67
Auto theft	65	70	64
Vandalism	64	59	65
Drugs and Narcotics	55	50	56
Store robbery	52	57	51
Fire, arson	49	56	47
Youth gangs	45	41	46
Mugging	44	53	42
Racial conflict	42	47	41
Traffic accidents	39	50	37
Rape	29	36	28
Mailbox theft	28	35	26
Gambling	20	25	19
Prostitution	16	27	14

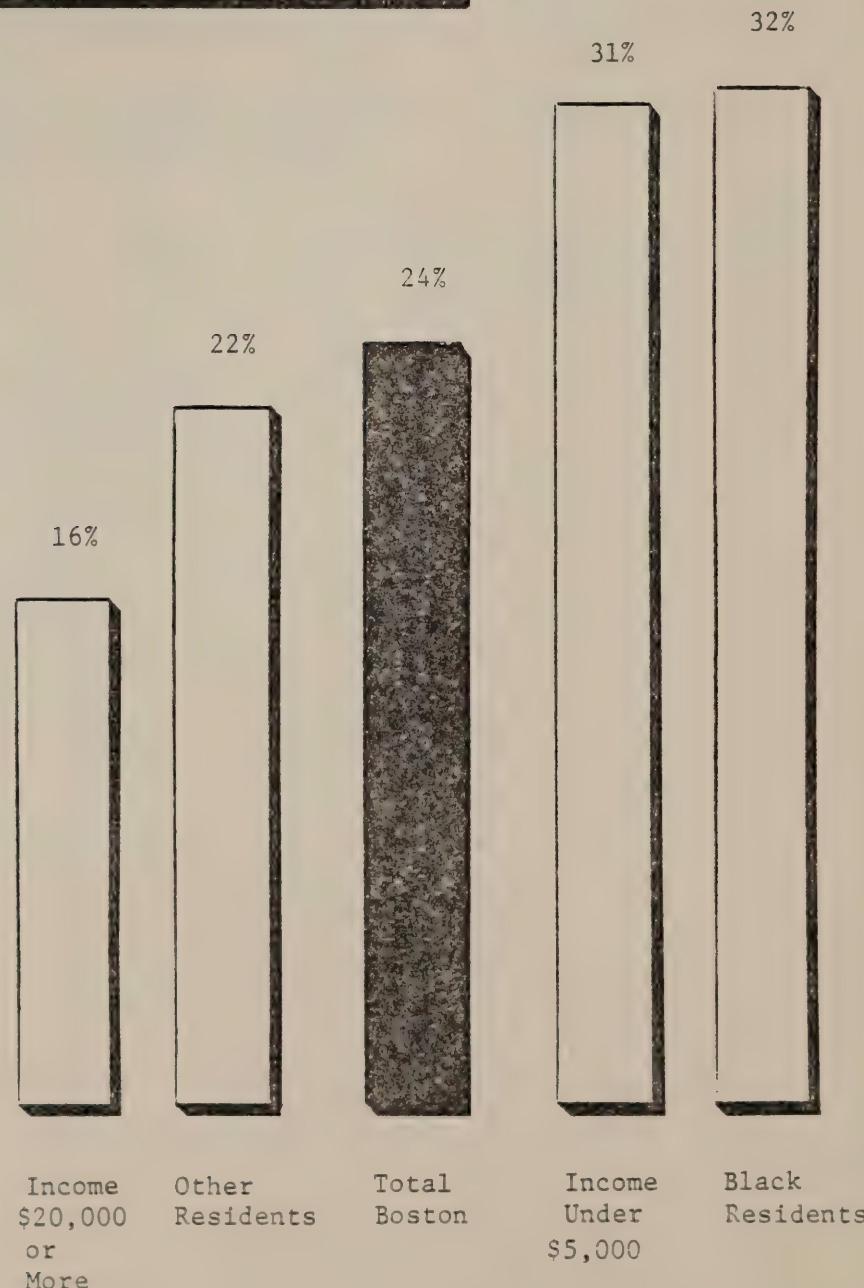
The divergent perceptions of the seriousness of criminal activity which exist between the upper and the lower socio-economic groupings translates, as would be expected, into a lessened sense of personal safety among residents at the lower end of the socio-economic scale. Nearly one in three (31%) of those in lower income households feels a lack of safety in the neighborhood, as compared to only 16% in upper income households. Similarly, nearly one-third (32%) of the members of the black community lack a sense of safety in their neighborhoods, in contrast to only 24% among all Boston residents.

	Total Boston	Feeling of Safety in Neighborhood — Upper vs. Lower Income Groups: Under $5,000	$20,000 and Over
	%	%	%
Feel totally safe	22	22	24
Feel fairly safe	53	47	60
Feel unsafe	24	31	16
Not sure	1	-	-

	Total Boston	Feeling of Safety in Neighborhood: Black Residents	Feeling of Safety in Neighborhood: Other Residents
	%	%	%
Feel totally safe	22	23	22
Feel fairly safe	53	45	54
Feel unsafe	24	32	22
Not sure	1	-	2

SUMMARY

Percentage of Selected Population Groups Who Report Feeling <u>Unsafe</u> in Their Neighborhood



11. Boston's Fiscal Condition

FINDING: The question of responsibility for tax rates, budgeting and the expenditures of public funds is a complex issue for Boston residents, further complicated by their recognition that many of the city's fiscal and governmental decisions are dictated by forces outside city government. The vast majority of the city's population feel that the way the city is run is decided by the state and federal governments and other influences. Most Bostonians think that city government has lost much of its control over spending because of union contracts covering municipal employees, and feel that inflation makes future tax increases inevitable.

Based on prevailing perceptions of how much Boston contributes to Massachusetts state revenues, Bostonians think the city gets shortchanged while other parts of the state get more than their fair share of state aid.

DISCUSSION:

Bostonians are generally more sympathetic than otherwise to many of the problems faced by city government. They recognize that a great deal of the control of the city's administration lies in hands other than those of city administrators. By a very wide margin (74%) they are in agreement with the statement:

> To a very great extent the way the city is run is decided by state and federal governments and by business interests.

Only 13% do not recognize or accept the role of outside influences on the city, while 13% had no opinion.

Further, residents are very much aware of the constraints imposed on the city by its employees through the city's contracts with their unions. When asked to express agreement or disagreement with the statement:

> City government has lost much
> of its control over spending
> because of its union contracts.

...a clear majority (55%) was in agreement, while only 22% disagreed and 23% were not certain.

Residents in the higher income brackets are in agreement (61%) to a greater extent than those with lower incomes (49%).

	Income Under $5,000	Income $20,000 or More
	%	%
Agree	49	61
Disagree	18	29
Not sure	34	10

There is also recognition among Boston residents that the city government is shortchanged by the state in the matter of distributing revenues among Massachusetts municipalities. A majority (55%) stated their agreement with the premise---

> Comparing what Boston contributes to Massachusetts state revenues with what the city gets back in state aid, Boston gets shortchanged while other parts of the state get more than their fair share.

---while 29% could not agree and 16% had no opinion.

Again, it is the upper rather than the lower income resident who is most likely to hold this opinion.

	Income Under $5,000	Income $20,000 or More
	%	%
Agree	41	69
Disagree	47	19
Not sure	12	12

And finally, Bostonians are generally sympathetic to the difficulties encountered by city administrators which are brought on by the nation's continuing inflationary spiral. They agree by a majority of 51% that---

> Because of inflation, taxes will have to go up sometimes---so if they don't go up this year they will just have to go up more next year.

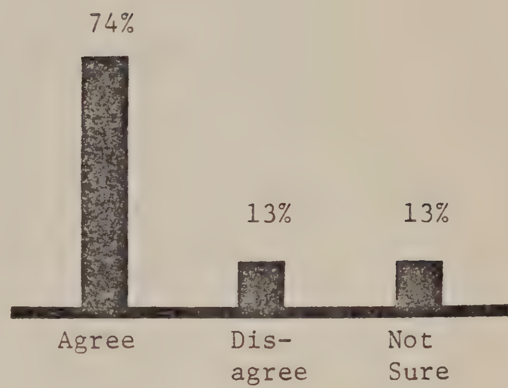
---while 39% are in disagreement and 10% expressed no opinion.

Thus, there appears to be wide agreement among Bostonians that many, if not most, of the fiscal diff-iculties currently confronting city government have been brought on to a large extent by outside forces---unions, inflation and state governmental control---over which the city itself can exercise little direct influence.

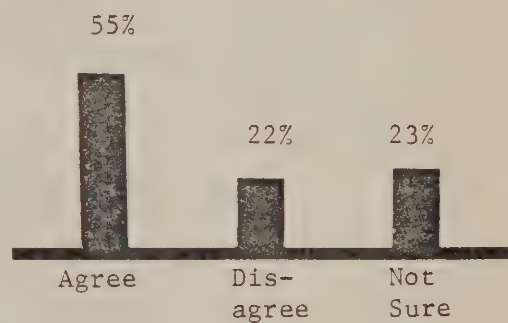
SUMMARY

Agreement vs. Disagreement with Statements Concerning Boston's Fiscal Condition

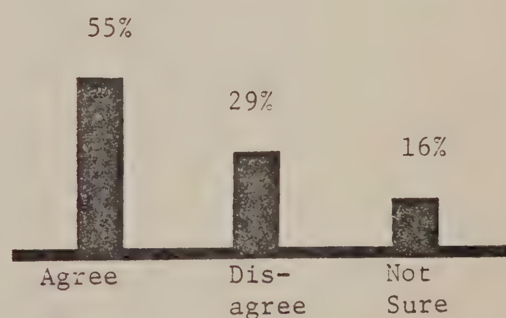
To a very great extent the way the city is run is decided by state and federal governments and by business interests.



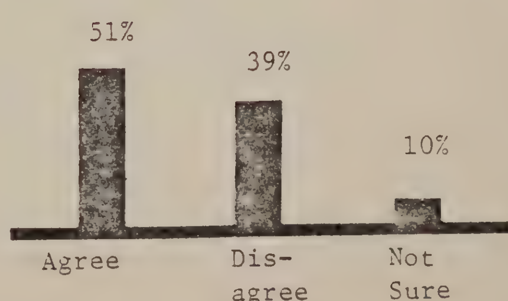
City government has lost much of its control over spending because of its union contracts.



Comparing what Boston contributes to Massachusetts state revenues with what the city gets back in state aid, Boston gets short-changed while other parts of the state get more than their fair share.



Because of inflation, taxes will have to go up sometime ---so if they don't go up this year they will just have to go up more next year.



12. Perceptions of the City Tax Rate

FINDING: Whether factually based or emotional in origin, most Bostonians feel that they pay higher property taxes than they would if they lived in similar residences in another area, and that the city might well afford to cut taxes---particularly if tax laws were changed so that religious institutions, universities and other tax-exempt organizations paid city taxes on their properties---or if Boston were to receive its proportionate share of financial support from the state.

Public focus on Boston's tax rate and fiscal condition does not extend to a clear demand for "Proposition 13" type tax cuts, however, and the possibility of cutbacks in city services resulting from tax cuts generates serious doubts in the minds of many Bostonians about the acceptability of that course of action. More than one in three residents think that recent and proposed tax cuts in California will result in severe reductions in the quality of education, law enforcement and health services for its citizens---and opinions are evenly divided as to whether Boston residents are willing to accept cutbacks in the quality of city services in return for limitations on property tax increases in the future.

DISCUSSION:

Judging from survey response, it is clearly evident that Boston residents have given a great deal of thought to the matter of taxation---particularly the problems that relate to the city property tax. Whether factually based or imagined, Bostonians are convinced that:

> Boston residents pay higher property taxes than they would if they lived in another major city.

Three in four Bostonians (75%) expressed agreement with that statement while only 15% disagreed and a relatively small 10% could state no opinion.

The perception of Boston's property tax rate as higher than in other cities is more in evidence among those in upper than in lower income categories.

	Income Under $5,000	Income $20,000 or More
	%	%
Agree	71	84
Disagree	15	11
Not sure	14	5

In their consideration of the pros and cons of the property tax and of the ways in which their own burden might be lightened, most residents (73%) have come to the conclusion that:

> Boston city government could substantially ease the property tax burden on home owners and renters if the tax laws were changed so that religious institutions, universities and other tax-exempt organizations paid tax on their property.

Only 17% took an opposing position and, again, a relatively small portion of the population (10%) had no opinion. The consensus on this matter did not vary to any significant extent according to any ethnic sub-groups of the population, as might have been anticipated, with consistent agreement across all demographic categories.

But in their search for measures designed to ease the burden of the property tax, Bostonians have not extended themselves to full support for a "Proposition 13." A division of opinion exists on the question of tax cuts and limitations similar to California's, and their applicability to Massachusetts. While a near majority (46%) disagree that:

> Property tax cuts in California will result in severe reductions in the quality of education, law enforcement and health services for its citizens.

---35% express concern over the long term implications of "Proposition 13", with 19% undecided.

There is widespread concern over the result of imposing a stringent limitation on property tax rates in Massachusetts. The level of agreement vs. disagreement with the statement---

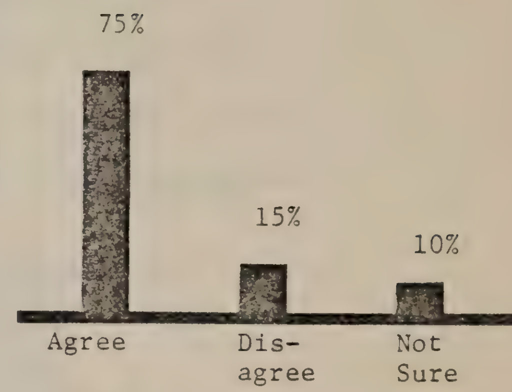
> Boston residents are willing to accept cutbacks in the quality of city services in return for limitations on property tax increases in the future.

---is about the same for both sides of the question---46% side with the premise and 44% are in opposition with only 10% undecided. Bostonians can be expected to give serious second thoughts to the extended lure of a property tax cut if it is attached to the condition of a reduction in the level or quality of governmental services.

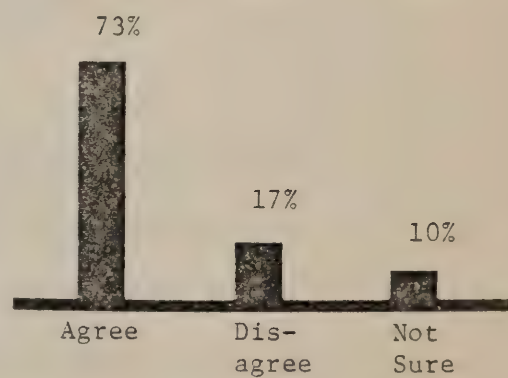
SUMMARY

Agreement vs. Disagreement with Statements Concerning Boston's Property Tax Rate

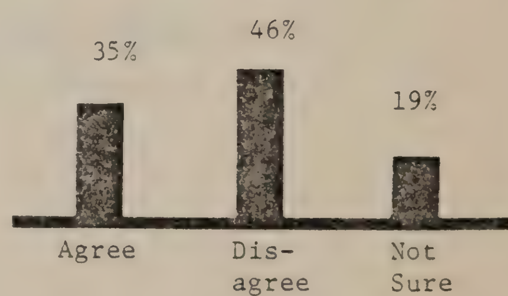
Boston residents pay higher property taxes than they would if they lived in another major city.



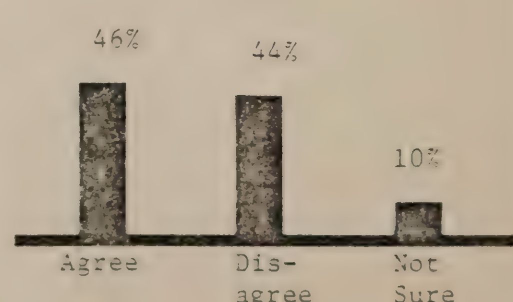
Boston city government could substantially ease the property tax burden on home owners and renters if the tax laws were changed so that religious institutions, universities and other tax-exempt organizations paid tax on their property.



Property tax cuts in California will result in severe reductions in the quality of education, law enforecement and health services for its citizens.



Boston residents are willing to accept cutbacks in the quality of city services in return for limitations on property tax increases in the future.



13. The City Property Tax Rate

FINDING: Boston public attitudes toward city property taxes have changed significantly since the 1977 survey measurement. Compared to a high 65% of residents who felt that city property taxes were increasing at a faster rate than food, clothing or other consumer prices in 1977---only 47% hold that view today. The proportion who feel that the city tax rate is increasing at a slower rate now totals 12%, compared to only 3% in 1977. An estimated 24% see Boston city taxes as increasing at the same rate as most other costs of living---while 20% expressed that opinion in 1977.

The logical result of prevailing public confusion and skepticism regarding city tax rates and budgeting is a tendency to support "hold the line" or status quo policies with regard to tax rates for the immediate future.

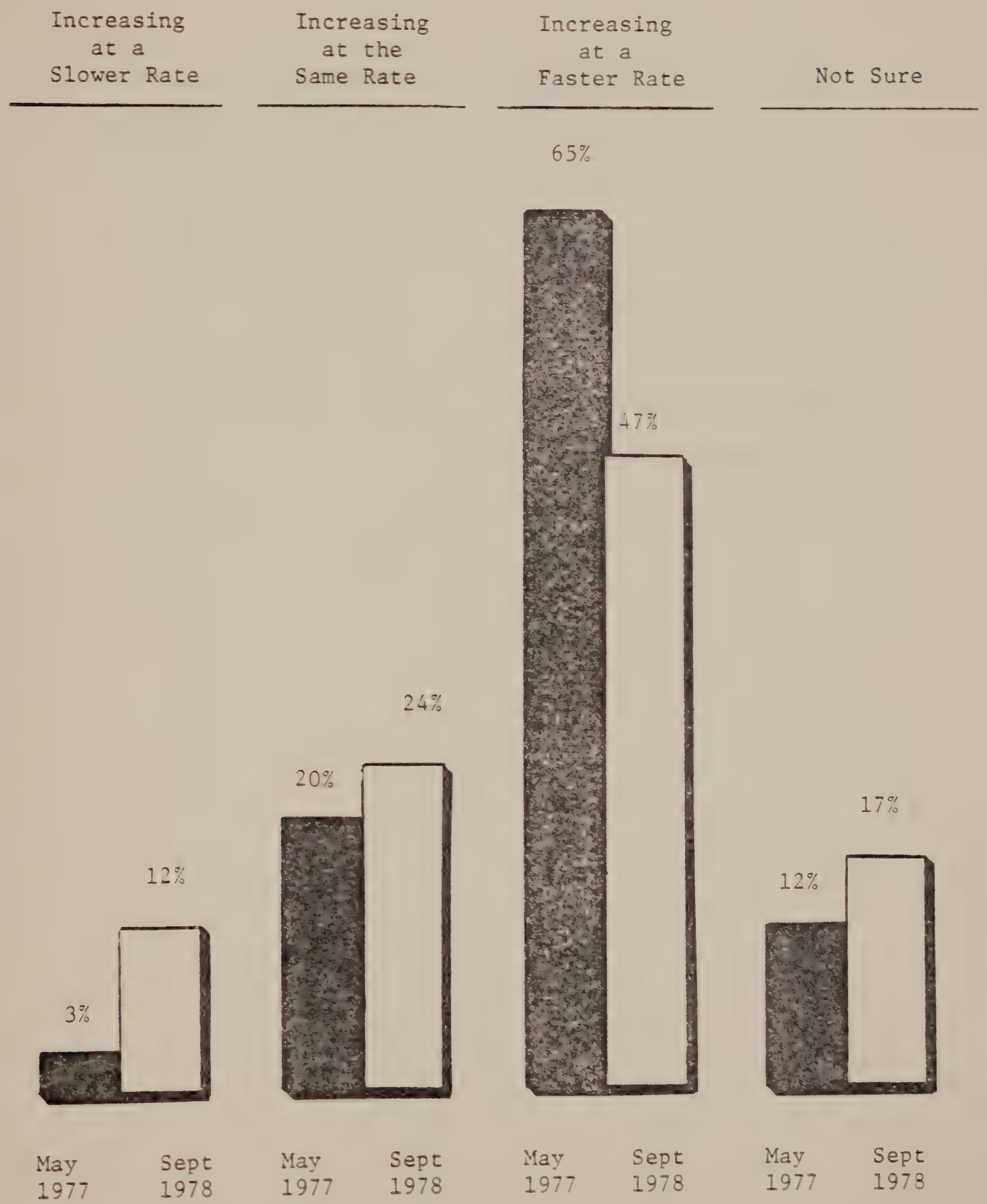
Looking ahead to next year, better than two out of three Boston home owners indicated that they would be satisfied or pleased if the city tax rate remained the same.

DISCUSSION:

In the 1977 survey, an overwhelming two of every three Boston residents (65%) held the opinion that the city's property tax rate was rising at a pace in excess of the rate that would normally be expected from the pressures of inflation and the increasing costs of all goods and services. This highly negative perception of Boston's tax rate trend appears to have diminished substantially, according to the 1978 survey.

In the more recent measurement the proportion who view the trend of the tax rate as greater than the trend of inflation has dropped to 47%---a sizeable decline from the earlier reading. Further, there have been important changes in the proportion of the population who perceive the advance of the city tax rates to be at a slower pace than the rate of inflation---up from only 3% in 1977 to 12% in 1978.

Perceived Growth of Boston Property Tax Rate Compared to Other Consumer Good Prices



	Perceived Boston Property Tax Rate vs. Inflation	
	May 1977	Sept 1978
	%	%
Increasing at a faster rate	65	47
Increasing at same rate	20	24
Increasing at a slower rate	3	12
Not sure	12	17

Given the increasing recognition that the city has been able to hold its expenditures below the levels which might normally be expected from inflationary pressures alone, it could be reasoned that a "hold the line" stance with regard to tax increments in the immediate future would meet with wide public acceptance. In line with this premise, 1978 survey findings indicated that over two-thirds (69%) of Boston's home owners would be "pleased," or at least "satisfied" if the tax rate were to remain unchanged next year.

	Home Owner Reaction to Possibility of NO CHANGE in Next Year's Property Tax Rate
	%
Extremely pleased	16
Somewhat pleased	16
Satisfied	37
Somewhat displeased	15
Extremely displeased	6
Outraged	3
Not sure	7

Home owners were probed to determine reactions to increases and decreases in the city property tax rate at various levels. The degree of "pleasure" or "satisfaction" dropped markedly at the suggestion of an increase in the property tax rate---to 16% for a $3 increment, to 7% for a $6 increment and to 5% for a $10 increment. The level of "outrage" grew correspondingly---from 3% with no change in the property tax rate to 57% for an increase of $10.

At the suggestion of property tax decreases, Boston home owners reacted with only limited increments in their level of "pleasure" or "satisfaction"---to 75% at a $3 or $6 decrease in the tax rate and to only 77% at the level of a $10 decrease.

	Home Owner Reactions to Unchanged Property Tax Rate vs. Increments at Various Levels			
	Un-changed	$3 In-crease	$6 In-crease	$10 In-crease
	%	%	%	%
Extremely pleased	16	1	1	-
Somewhat pleased	16	4	2	2
Satisfied	37	10	4	3
Somewhat displeased	15	34	19	8
Extremely displeased	6	30	35	21
Outraged	3	14	32	57
Not sure	7	7	7	9

Home Owner
Reactions to Unchanged
Property Tax Rate
vs. Decreases at
Various Levels

	Unchanged	$3 Decrease	$6 Decrease	$10 Decrease
	%	%	%	%
Extremely pleased	16	18	34	59
Somewhat pleased	16	37	31	11
Satisfied	37	20	10	7
Somewhat displeased	15	10	7	2
Extremely displeased	6	4	5	3
Outraged	3	3	3	6
Not sure	7	9	10	12

14. Boston's Parking Problems

FINDING: Bostonians favor programs to restrict on-street parking to city residents, particularly in "depot" neighborhoods that serve suburban commuters.

DISCUSSION:

By a substantial margin, 60% to 33%, Bostonians agree with the statement:

> Boston should have a program to restrict parking to city residents.

The ratio in support of the premise is substantially the same among men (59%), women (61%), home owners (62%) renters (59%), and blacks (56%).

There is however, a tendency for those in the upper income brackets to give greater support to restricted parking.

		Agree
		%
Income:	Under $5,000	54
	$5,000 to $9,999	58
	$10,000 to $14,999	61
	$15,000 to $15,999	60
	$20,000 or more	66

15. Profile of the City

FINDING: The average of 2.98 persons per Boston household reported in the 1978 survey is in line with the national average of 2.94 persons per U.S. household for 1976. However, 19% of respondents in the 1978 survey sample were in the 65 and older age group, compared to an estimated 15% of the total U.S. adult population in 1976.

A higher percentage of Boston heads of household represented in the 1978 survey are men (81%) compared to the national average of 76%; and nearly 16% of 1978 survey respondents are black, compared to an estimated 12% for the total U.S. population in 1976.

Boston has a higher proportion of households with a total family income in the under $5,000 bracket represented in the 1978 survey (17%) than the estimated average of all U.S. households in 1976 (10%)---significantly fewer households with total annual family income in the $25,000 and over range (11%), compared to 18% for the total U.S. population in 1976.

DISCUSSION:

The composition of households in Boston is closely in line with national norms in some respects, but at variance on measures which concern age and household income levels.

Nearly one in four Boston households (23%) consists of an adult living alone while another 27% include only two persons. The distribution of households in Boston, therefore, is equally divided between one and two person households (50%) and households with three or more individuals (50%). This compares closely with national data which show a 51% to 49% division between one and two member households vs. those with three members or more.

	Number of Persons in Household	
	1978 Boston Survey	Total U.S. 1976
	%	%
One	23	21
Two	27	30
Three	17	17
Four	15	16
Five	9	9
Six	3	4
More than six	5	3
Average	2.98	2.94

The age of children within Boston households also shows considerable agreement with national norms. For instance, one of every three (35%) households in Boston has at least one child under 18 years of age present. This compares to 40% of the nation's households with children under age 18 in 1977, the most recent comparative figure available.

	Percentage Distribution of Households by Presence of Children	
	1978 Boston Survey	Total U.S. 1977
	%	%
Households with children under age 18	35	40
Pre-school age children (under 6) only	10	na
School age children (6-17 only)	19	na
Both pre-school and school age children present	5	na
Households with no children under age 18	65	60

	Percentage Distribution of Households by Number of Children			
	Age Under 6		Age 6-17	
	Boston	Total U.S. 1977	Boston	Total U.S. 1977
	%	%	%	%
Children in age category present	15	17	25	31
One	9		10	
Two	5		8	
Three	1		3	
Four	-		2	
Five	-		1	
More than four	-		1	
Children in age category not present	85	83	75	69

Boston households, in comparison to national norms, tend to include expected proportions of both younger and older adults, but not adults in the middle-age groupings (ages 35-64). Nearly a quarter (24%) of Boston's adult population is in the 18-24 age bracket, as compared to 19% on a national basis. At the upper end of the age continuum 19% of Boston's adults are age 65 or over, compared to 15% for the national norm. The 35% of Boston adults who fall between the ages 35 and 64 contrasts to a national figure of 44% who are in the middle-year age category.

	Percentage Distribution of Adult Population by Age	
	1978 Boston Survey	Total U.S. 1976
	%	%
18 to 24	24	19
25 to 34	22	21
35 to 49	17	23
50 to 64	18	21
65 and over	19	15

The Boston population also differs from national norms in the ratio of males to females as heads of household. Boston households are slightly more likely to be headed by men (81%) than the national average (76%).

	Sex of Head of Household	
	1978 Boston Survey	Total U.S. 1976
	%	%
Male	81	76
Female	19	24

In addition, the Boston population contains a higher percentage of black (16%) and foreign born (10%) residents than does the population of the nation in total.

	Foreign Born and Black Residents as Percentages of the Population		
	1978 Boston Survey	Total U.S.	
	%	%	
Foreign born	10	6	(1976 U.S. estimate)
Black	16	12	(1970 U.S. estimate)

And finally, the annual household income of Bostonians is at generally lower levels than the national norm. Some 17% of Boston residents live in households with incomes under $5,000 as compared to 10% for the U.S. in total, while only 11% of Boston households fall into the upper income bracket ($25,000 or more) as compared to 18% nationwide. The percentage distribution of the income of Boston households in the table following is computed on the basis of the assumption that incomes of those respondents who did not indicate an income category fall into the same income distribution pattern as those who did respond.

	Percentage Distribution of Households by Total Annual Income		
	1978 Boston Survey		Total U.S. 1976
	%		%
UNDER $5,000	17		10
$ 5,000 TO $ 7,449	13	24	20
$ 7,500 TO $ 9,999	11		
$10,000 TO $12,499	13		
$12,500 TO $14,999	12	25	20
$15,000 TO $17,499	8	13	19
$17,500 TO $19,999	5		
$20,000 TO $22,499	6	10	13
$22,500 TO $24,999	4		
$25,000 TO $29,999	4		
$30,000 TO $34,999	2		
$35,000 TO $39,999	2	11	18
$40,000 TO $44,999	1		
$45,000 TO $49,999	1		
$50,000 AND OVER	1		

NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILE

Allston

I. Attitude Overview:

- Allston residents rate Boston more favorably than citywide average---53% see conditions in Boston as better than other major cities, compared to citywide average of 30%
- Residents express greater pride in city (51%) than citywide average of 41%
- Less committed to pride in their neighborhood (34%) than citywide average of 52%
- Less likely to remain in their present neighborhood when changing residence (16%) than citywide average of 29%

II. Budget Perceptions:

- Residents more likely to demand budget increases for snow removal (24%) and programs for the elderly (19%) than citywide averages of 12% and 14% respectively

III. Crime Concerns:

- Overall feelings of safety in their neighborhood are at average citywide levels---80% vs. 75% citywide
- Residents express greatest concern over burglary (49%), auto theft (34%), vandalism (34%) and mugging (21%)

IV. Fiscal Concerns:

- Greater feeling that city tax rate is increasing at a faster rate than inflation (56%) compared to citywide average of 47%
- More residents disagree (51%) than agree (41%) that the property tax rate must rise sooner or later because of inflation---compares to more agreement (51%) than disagreement (39%) among all Boston residents

V. Demographics:

- Greater concentration of business and professionals (18%) than citywide average of 14%---fewer blue collar (23%) than 33% citywide
- Younger neighborhood head of household population than total Boston---27% in 18 - 24 age group vs. 9% citywide---only 10% in 65 and over vs. 22% citywide
- Higher population of college graduates (37%) than 21% for total Boston
- Slightly above average income: 42% $15,000 + vs. 34% citywide

NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILE

Brighton

I. Attitude Overview:

- Brighton residents rate Boston more favorably than citywide average---40% see conditions in Boston as better than other major cities compared to average for city of 30%
- Residents express less pride in the city (32%) than average of 41% citywide
- Pride in Brighton (35%) also below citywide average of 52% for pride in neighborhood
- Residents slightly less likely to remain in their neighborhood when changing residence (24%) than citywide average of 29%

II. Budget Perceptions:

- Residents generally less likely to demand major budget increases than in other neighborhoods---foremost budget concerns are street repair (12%), snow removal (12%), public schools (12%) and aid for the elderly (12%)

III. Crime Concerns:

- Overall feelings of safety in Brighton are greater than citywide levels---82% vs. 75% for the city
- Fewer residents feel that neighborhood crime level has increased in recent years (17%) than 30% citywide
- Residents express primary concern over crimes of burglary (49%), vandalism (37%) and auto theft (32%)

IV. Fiscal Concerns:

- Greater feeling that city tax rate is increasing at a faster rate than inflation (65%) compared to average of 47% for the city in total
- More disagree (48%) than agree (38%) that pressure of inflation must sooner or later cause the property tax rate to rise---compares to more agreement (51%) than disagreement (39%) citywide
- Strong agreement (72% vs. 54% citywide) that aid given the city by the state is sufficient to allow for a tax cut this year

V. Demographics:

- Age profile of head of household population younger than citywide norms---28% in 18 - 29 age group vs. 22% citywide---55% in 40 and over vs. 60% citywide
- Greater concentration of white collar workers (39%) than city average of 25%---fewer blue collar (14%) than 33% citywide
- Population of college graduates (35%) significantly greater than 21% for total Boston
- Incomes levels among city's highest: 54% $15,000 + vs. 34% citywide

NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILE

Back Bay/Beacon Hill

I. Attitude Overview:

- Residents' rating of Boston are more favorable than in most other neighborhoods: 46% see conditions in Boston as better than other major cities compared to citywide average of 30%
- Residents' expression of pride in city (67%) compares to citywide average of 41%
- Residents' pride in their neighborhood (57%) just above citywide average of 52% for neighborhood pride
- More likely to remain in their neighborhood when changing residence (40%) than average of 29% citywide

II. Budget Perceptions:

- Residents most likely to demand major budget increases for street repair (22%) and programs for economic revitalization (19%)---greater than citywide average demand for increments in tree planting (12% vs. 7% citywide) and garbage collection (12% vs. 6% citywide)

III. Crime Concerns:

- Less perception of increasing neighborhood crime trend (20%) than 30% citywide average
- Overall feelings of safety in Back Bay/Beacon Hill are slightly greater than citywide levels---80% vs. 75% for the city
- Residents express greatest concern over crime of burglary (55%)---lesser concerns are muggings (40%), auto theft (30%), and vandalism (24%)

IV. Fiscal Concerns:

- Residents less likely to perceive city tax rate as increasing at a faster rate than inflation (38%) than citywide average of 47%
- Strong agreement (85% vs. 75% citywide) that Boston's property tax rate is higher than in other cities
- More disagree (55%) than agree (35%) that the tax rate must rise sooner or later because of inflation---compares to more agreement (51%) than disagreement (39%) citywide

V. Demographics:

- Head of household population younger than total Boston---28% in 18 - 24 age group vs. 9% citywide---10% in 65 and over age group vs. 22% citywide
- Population of college graduates (53%) among highest in the city---compares to 21% for total Boston
- Concentration of business and professionals (26%) also among highest in the city---compares to citywide average of 14%---fewer blue collar (14%) than 33% citywide
- Considerably higher average income: 46% in the $15,000 + vs. 34% citywide

NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILE

Charlestown

I. Attitude Overview:

- Charlestown residents' rating of Boston aligns with the citywide average---33% see conditions in Boston as better than other major cities compared to average for city of 30%
- Residents express pride in city (59%) to greater extent than citywide average of 41%
- Residents' pride in Charlestown (66%) greater than observed in most other neighborhoods---compares to citywide average of 52% for pride in neighborhood
- Likely to remain in Charlestown when changing residence (33%) to about the same extent as 29% citywide average

II. Budget Perceptions:

- Major budget increase demands concentrate on street repair (40%), programs to revitalize the economy (24%) and to aid the elderly (22%)---demand for increased attention to street lighting (21%) greater than citywide (9%)

III. Crime Concerns:

- Overall feelings of safety in Charlestown are greater than citywide levels---89% vs. 75% for the city
- Residents express greatest concern over auto theft (52%), vandalism (42%), burglary (37%), youth gangs (33%) and drugs (22%)

IV. Fiscal Concerns:

- Less convinced that city tax rate is increasing at a faster rate than inflation (38%) compared to average of 47% citywide
- Also less convinced that inflation must sooner or later cause tax rate to rise: only 41% agree vs. 49% who disagree---compares to more agreement (51%) than disagreement (39%) citywide

V. <u>Demographics</u>:

- Head of household population older than total Boston---73% in 40 + age group vs. 60% citywide---only 10% in age 18 - 29 vs. 22% citywide

- College graduates fewer (13%) than 21% for total Boston

- Occupational mix a close match to city-wide distribution: business and professionals at 13% compared to citywide average of 14%---blue collar at 27% vs. 33% citywide---white collar at 29% vs. 25% citywide

- Income levels also closely align with city averages: 39% $15,000 + vs. 34% citywide

NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILE

Dorchester/
Fields Corner

I. Attitude Overview:

- Residents rate Boston slightly less favorably than citywide average---25% see conditions in Boston as better than other major cities compared to city average of 30%
- Residents express greater pride in city (49%) than city average of 41%
- Pride in the neighborhood (66%) among highest in the city---compares to citywide average of 52% for neighborhood pride
- More likely to remain in Dorchester/Fields Corner when changing residence (41%) than average of 29% citywide

II. Budget Perceptions:

- Residents demand major budget increases for programs which aid the elderly (31%) and the economy (28%)---greater interest in increments for police (20%), fire (15%) and street lighting (14%), than citywide averages of 12%, 10%, and 9% respectively

III. <u>Crime Concerns</u>:

- Overall feelings of safety in Dorchester/ Fields Corner are at about average citywide levels---78% vs. 75% citywide
- Perception of trend in neighborhood crime seen as unchanged (48%) to a greater extent than 39% citywide
- Residents express greatest concern over burglary (43%), vandalism (33%), muggings (25%), youth gangs (22%) and auto thefts (21%)

IV. <u>Fiscal Concerns</u>:

- Perception of city tax rate as increasing at a faster rate than inflation (47%) matches citywide average of 47%
- Strong agreement (83% vs. 75% citywide) that Bostonians pay higher property taxes than residents of other cities, and that the state's distribution of revenues to cities shortchanges Boston (66% compared to 55% citywide)
- More residents disagree (51%) than agree (32%) that inflation must necessarily cause the city tax rate to rise---compares to more agreement (51%) than disagreement (39%) citywide

V. Demographics:

- Older head of household population than total Boston---3% in 18 - 24 age group vs. 9% citywide---78% in 40 and over vs. 60% citywide
- Lower average income: 28% $15,000 + vs. 34% citywide
- Low population of college graduates (9%) compares to 21% for total Boston
- Slightly higher population of white collar workers (30%) than citywide average of 25%: business and professionals lower (8%) than 14% citywide
- Concentration of black residents at 11% vs. 16% in Boston as a whole

NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILE

Dorchester/
Uphams Corner

I. Attitude Overview:

- Residents rate Boston slightly less favorably than citywide average---23% see conditions in Boston as better than other major cities compared to citywide average of 30%
- Residents express slightly less pride in city (35%) than average of 41% citywide
- Residents expression of pride in their neighborhood (61%) considerably above the citywide average of 52% for neighborhood pride
- More likely to remain in Dorchester/Uphams Corner when changing residence (38%) than 29% citywide

II. Budget Perceptions:

- Residents most frequently demand major increase in expenditures for public schools (23%) and programs to aid the economy (22%) ---demand greater than citywide averages regarding budget increases for libraries (16% vs. 4% citywide), and programs for the elderly (21% vs. 14% citywide)

III. Crime Concerns:

- Trend of neighborhood crime perceived as decreasing (35%) vs. 22% citywide
- Overall feelings of safety in Dorchester/ Uphams Corner are just below average citywide levels---70% vs. 75% for the city
- Residents express greatest concern over burglary (31%), vandalism (28%), narcotics (23%), and youth gangs (21%)

IV. Fiscal Concerns:

- Feeling that city tax rate is increasing at a faster rate than inflation (49%) just above average of 47% citywide
- Strong agreement (81% vs. 75% citywide) that Bostonians pay higher property taxes than residents of other cities; more disagree (48%) than agree (33%) that inflation must necessarily cause the city tax rate to rise---compares to more agreement (51%) than disagreement (39%) citywide

V. Demographics:

- Lower concentration of business and professional workers (4%) than citywide average of 14%---fewer blue collar (18%) than 33% citywide and more white collar, 37% vs. 25% citywide

- Age of head of household population peaks in middle age years: 53% in 30 - 49 age group vs. 30% citywide---only 2% in 18 - 24 age group vs. 9% citywide

- Lower population of high school graduates (64%) than 79% for total Boston---fewer college graduates (8%) than 20% citywide

- Lower average incomes: only 21% have annual household incomes of $15,000 +, compared to 34% citywide

- Sizeable community of black residents at 19% vs. 16% in Boston as a whole

NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILE

East Boston

I. Attitude Overview:

- East Boston residents rate Boston slightly less favorably than average for city: 25% see conditions in Boston as better than other major cities compared to citywide average of 30%---27% view conditions as worse compared to city average of 23%
- Residents express greater pride in city (47%) than 41% citywide average
- Pride in East Boston (46%) below average of 52% for all neighborhoods
- Likelihood of remaining in East Boston when changing residence (30%) at about the same level as citywide average of 29%

II. Budget Perceptions:

- Residents generally more likely to demand major increase in city budget expenditures than in other neighborhoods---greatest demand for street repair (43%), programs to revitalize the economy (39%), snow removal (35%), programs for the elderly (32%), public housing (31%) and parks and recreation facilities (30%)

III. Crime Concerns:

- Overall feelings of safety in East Boston are above citywide levels---85% vs. 75% for the city
- Residents express greater concern over crime than in most other neighborhoods: burglary (50%), drugs and narcotics (45%), auto theft (40%), vandalism (37%), youth gangs (31%), and fire/arson (24%)

IV. Fiscal Concerns:

- Feeling that city tax rate is increasing at a faster rate than inflation (54%) slightly greater than average of 47% for city as a whole
- Residents agree (77%) more than other Bostonians (54%) that because of the state's aid to the city, Boston can afford to decrease taxes
- Residents disagree (53% vs. 44% citywide) that Bostonians would accept cutbacks in city services in exchange for limitations on future tax increases

V. Demographics:

- Older head of household population than total Boston---3% in 18-24 age group vs. 9% citywide ---71% in 40 and over vs. 60% citywide
- Lower concentration of college graduates (7%) than 21% in total Boston
- Lower concentration of business and professionals (5%) than citywide average of 14%---more blue collar (39%) than 33% citywide and fewer white collar (19%) than city (25%)
- Relatively lower income levels: 23% $15,000+ vs. 34% citywide

NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILE

Fenway

I. Attitude Overview:

- Fenway residents rate Boston slightly more favorably than citywide average---37% see conditions in Boston as better than other major cities compared to citywide average of 30%
- Residents express greater pride in city (47%) than citywide average of 41%
- Residents' pride in Fenway (36%) considerably less than average of 52% for all neighborhoods
- Liklihood of remaining in Fenway when changing residence in future (26%) about the same as citywide average of 29%

II. Budget Perceptions:

- Residents more likely to demand major budget increases for street repair (27% vs. 18% citywide), the Housing Improvement Program (26% vs. 18% citywide) and public housing (26% vs. 17% citywide)---also call for increments to greater extent than city averages for garbage collection (20% vs. 6% citywide) and art, recreational and entertainment programs (14% vs. 8% citywide)

III. Crime Concerns:

- Overall feelings of safety in Fenway are less than citywide levels: 61% vs. 75% for the city
- Residents express greater concern over crimes of burglary (54%) and mugging (49%) and to a lesser extent, vandalism (29%), fire/arson (24%) and drugs (17%)

IV. Fiscal Concerns:

- Feelings that city tax rate is increasing at a faster rate than inflation (29%) less than average of 47% citywide.
- Residents disagree (56% vs. 44% citywide) that Bostonians would accept cutbacks in city services in exchange for limitations in future tax increases

V. Demographics:

- Greater concentration of students (14%) than citywide average of 7%---fewer blue collar workers (15%) than 33% citywide, but more business and professional (24%) and white collar workers (33%) than city averages of 14% and 25% respectively
- Larger population of college graduates (35%) than Boston average of 21%
- Income average for Fenway households slightly below city average: 25% $15,000 + vs. 34% citywide
- Younger head of household population than total Boston---35% in 18-24 age group vs. 9% citywide
- Concentration of black residents at 15% vs. 16% in Boston as a whole

NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILE

Franklin Field/
Mattapan

I. Attitude Overview:

- Residents' rating of Boston considerably below citywide averages: only 16% see conditions in Boston as better than other major cities compared to average for city of 30%---39% view conditions as worse compared to citywide average of 23%
- Residents express less pride in city (34%) than 41% average for the city as a whole
- Pride in the neighborhood (62%) greater than citywide average of 52% for neighborhood pride
- Slightly less likely to remain in Franklin Field/ Mattapan when changing residence (26%) than average of 29% citywide

II. Budget Perceptions:

- Residents more likely to recommend major budget increases than persons in other neighborhoods---greatest demand includes major increments for street repair (57%), snow removal (54%), the Housing Improvement Program (52%), public housing (50%) and street lighting (50%)

III. Crime Concerns:

- Overall feelings of safety in Franklin Field/ Mattapan are just under citywide levels---71% vs. 75% for the city

- Residents express far greater concern over crime of burglary (55%) and to a lesser degree, mugging (31%), auto theft (23%), vandalism (18%), racial conflict (15%) and youth gangs (15%)

IV. Fiscal Concerns:

- Greater feeling that city tax rate is increasing at a faster rate than inflation (62%) compared to citywide average of 47%

V. Demographics:

- Age of head of household population peaks in middle years---42% in 30 - 49 age group vs. 30% citywide---only 2% in age 18 - 24 vs. 9% citywide

- Slightly lower concentration of business and professionals (9%) than citywide average of 14%, but blue collar (30%) and white collar (29%) do not vary greatly from city averages of 33% and 25%

- Populations of college (22%) and high school graduates (82%) align closely with city averages of 21% and 79%, respectively

- Slightly lower average income levels: 29% $15,000 + vs. 34% citywide

- High concentration of black residents: 75% vs. 16% in Boston as a whole

NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILE

Hyde Park

I. Attitude Overview:

- Hyde Park residents rate Boston slightly less favorably than citywide average---24% see Boston conditions as better than other major cities compared to a citywide average of 30%
- Residents express greater pride in city (46%) than 41% citywide average
- Pride in their neighborhood (67%) considerably greater than citywide average of 52% for neighborhood pride
- Slightly less than likely to remain in Hyde Park when changing residence (26%) than citywide average of 29%

II. Budget Perceptions:

- Residents more likely to demand major budget increases for the Housing Improvement Program (20%) and programs for the elderly (19%)---less demand for public school budget increase (7%) than 21% citywide average

III. Crime Concerns:

- Overall feelings of safety in Hyde Park are greater than the citywide average---87% vs. 75% citywide
- Residents express greatest concern over vandalism (44%), auto theft (42%), youth gangs (34%) and burglary (33%)
- Perception of no increases in neighborhood crime trend (58%) considerably above 39% citywide

IV. Fiscal Concerns:

- Perception of city tax rate as increasing at a faster rate than inflation (51%) just above average of 47% citywide
- Residents agree (83% vs. 75% citywide) that Boston's property tax rate is higher than in other cities; they further agree (68% vs. 55% citywide) that union contracts have caused the city to lose much of its budgetary control
- Residents feel (75% vs 54% citywide) that because of the state's contribution to Boston this year the city can afford to lower taxes, and they agree by a margin of 83% to only 13% opposed that city taxes could be lowered if the property of religious and other tax-exempt institutions were taxed---compares to 73% in agreement vs. 17% opposed citywide

V. Demographics:

- Age of head of household population parallels citywide distribution---33% in under 40 age group vs. 39% citywide---22% in 65 and over vs. 22% citywide
- Distribution of occupations also aligns with citywide averages: business and professionals 13% vs. citywide average of 14%, blue collar (31%) compares to 33% citywide and white collar workers (24%) compares to 25% citywide
- Population of high school graduates (85%) greater than 79% for total Boston---college graduates (19%) just under 21% citywide level
- Income levels in line with city averages: 34% $15,000+ vs. 34% citywide

NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILE

Jamaica Plain/
Mission Hill

I. Attitude Overview:

- Residents rate Boston more favorably than city average---39% see conditions in Boston as better than other major cities compared to average for city of 30%

- Residents express greater pride in city (47%) than citywide average of 41%

- Pride in the neighborhood (44%) below citywide average of 52% for pride in neighborhood

- Likelihood of remaining in Jamaica Plain/ Mission Hill when changing residence (31%) in line with citywide average of 29%

II. Budget Perceptions:

- Residents more likely to demand major budget increases for public schools (15%), public housing (14%), street repair (13%), programs for the elderly (13%) and the Housing Improvement Program (12%)---less demand for increased fire protection (3%) than 10% city average

III. Crime Concerns:

- Overall feeling of safety in Jamaica Plain/ Mission Hill is just under citywide levels---66% vs. 75% citywide
- Residents express greatest concern over burglary (25%), vandalism (17%), auto theft (17%), and narcotics (15%)

IV. Fiscal Concerns:

- Feeling that city tax rate is increasing at a faster rate than inflation (44%) just under citywide average of 47%

V. Demographics:

- Slightly lower concentration of business and professionals (10%) than citywide average of 14%---fewer blue collar (21%) than 33% citywide, but more white collar workers (30%) vs. 25% for the city
- Head of household population younger than total Boston---14% in 18 - 24 age group vs. 9% citywide---57% in 40 and over vs. 60% citywide
- Population of college graduates (24%) just above 21% for total Boston
- Slightly lower average incomes: 53% under $10,000 vs. 41% citywide

NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILE

North End/
Downtown

I. Attitude Overview:

- Residents' ratings of Boston are more favorable than city average---39% see conditions in Boston as better than other major cities compared to citywide average of 30%---only 14% perceive worse conditions compared to 23% for the city as a whole
- Residents' expression of pride in city (66%) higher than in most other neighborhoods---compares to citywide average of 41%
- Express considerably greater pride in their neighborhood (68%) than average of 52% citywide for pride in neighborhood
- Likelihood of remaining in North End/Downtown area when changing residence (50%) greater than in most other neighborhoods---compares to 29% citywide

II. Budget Perceptions:

- Residents more likely to demand major increases for street repair (30%), the Housing Improvement Program (29%) and programs to revitalize the economy (29%)---greater demand for higher park/and recreational budget (21%) than 12% citywide and for more fire protection (17%) than 10% citywide

III. Crime Concerns:

- Overall feelings of safety in the North End/ Downtown neighborhood are at average citywide levels---80% vs. 75% citywide

- Residents express greatest concern over burglary (52%), narcotics (39%), fire/arson (35%), vandalism (34%), and the presence of youth gangs (26%)

IV. Fiscal Concerns:

- Greater feeling that city tax rate is increasing at a faster rate than inflation (56%) compared to average for the city of 47%

- Residents agree (81% vs. 75% citywide) that the property tax rate in Boston is higher than in other cities; they further agree (61% vs. 51% citywide) that the tax rate will continue to rise because of inflationary pressures

V. Demographics:

- Slightly greater concentration of business and professionals (17%) vs. citywide average of 14%; blue collar (35% vs. 33% citywide) and white collar workers (28% vs. 25% citywide) align closely to city averages

- Age of household population also parallels citywide distribution---20% in 18 - 29 age group vs. 22% citywide---64% age 40 and over vs. 60% citywide

- Larger population of college graduates (28%) than 21% for total Boston

- Higher average income: 43% $15,000 + vs. 34% citywide

NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILE

Roslindale

I. Attitude Overview:

- Roslindale residents rate Boston slightly less favorably than city average---23% see conditions in Boston as better than other major cities compared to citywide average of 30%
- Residents express pride in city (47%) to slightly greater extent than citywide average of 41%
- Pride in the neighborhood (58%) greater than citywide average of 52% for neighborhood pride
- Less likely to remain in Roslindale when changing residence (21%) than in most other neighborhoods---compared to citywide average of 29%

II. Budget Perceptions:

- Residents more likely to demand major budget increases for street repair (21%), public schools (17%), snow removal (14%) and programs for the elderly (14%)---demand for major increases in other budger areas lower than citywide averages

III. Crime Concerns:

- Perception of increasing neighborhood crime trend (53%) greater than 30% citywide
- Overall feelings of safety in Roslindale are at the average citywide level---79% vs. 75% for the city
- Residents express greatest concern over crime of burglary (48%)---and to a lesser extent, vandalism (34%), auto theft (33%), youth gangs (28%) and mugging (22%)

IV. Fiscal Concerns:

- Slightly lower perception of city tax rate as increasing at a faster rate than inflation (40%) compared to 47% citywide average
- Perception of city tax rate as higher than in other cities (82%) greater than 75% city-wide average
- Residents agree by a margin of 82% vs. 12% opposed that city taxes could be cut if the property of religious and other tax exempt institutions were taxed---compares to 73% agreement vs. 17% opposed citywide

V. Demographics:

- Older head of household population than total Boston---11% in 18 - 29 age group vs. 22% citywide---71% in 40 and over age group vs. 60% citywide
- Lower concentration of business and professionals (5%) than citywide average of 14%---slightly fewer blue collar (29%) than 33% citywide, but more white collar workers (31%) than 25% citywide
- Slightly lower concentration of college graduates (18%) than 21% for total Boston
- Higher average incomes: 41% $15,000 + vs. 34% citywide

NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILE

Roxbury

I. Attitude Overview:

- Roxbury residents' rating of Boston considerably below citywide averages: only 14% see conditions in Boston as better than other major cities compared to citywide average of 30%---36% rate Boston conditions worse than other major cities compared to 23% city average
- Residents' expression of pride in city (23%) lower than in most neighborhoods---compares to 41% citywide
- Pride in neighborhood (27%) also considerably below citywide average of 52% for neighborhood
- Residents likely to remain in Roxbury when changing residence (29%) to the same extent as citywide average of 29%

II. Budget Perceptions:

- Residents more likely to demand major budget increases for the Housing Improvement Program (44%), fire protection (42%) and public housing (42%)---greater than citywide averages in demand for increased budgets for public schools (33% vs. 21% citywide), police protection (38% vs. 12% citywide), street repair (36% vs. 18% citywide) and street lighting (35% vs. 9% citywide)

III. Crime Concerns:

- Perception of increasing neighborhood crime rate (55%) considerably above 30% city average
- Overall feelings of safety in Roxbury are lower than in most neighborhoods---57% vs. 75% average citywide
- Residents express greatest concern over vandalism (38%), burglary (36%), mugging (32%), auto theft (30%) and narcotics (26%)

IV. Fiscal Concerns:

- City tax rate perceived as increasing at a faster rate than inflation (54%) to a slightly greater extent than citywide average of 47%

V. Demographics:

- Older head of household population than citywide average---10% in 18 - 29 age group vs. 22% citywide---73% in 40 and over vs. 60% citywide
- Concentration of business and professional workers (1%) among lowest in the city---compares to citywide average of 14%
- Population of college graduates (11%) considerably below 21% for total Boston.
- Income levels also considerably lower: 13% $15,000+ vs. 34% citywide
- Black residents constitute 80% of the population compared to 16% citywide

NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILE

South Boston

I. Attitude Overview:

- South Boston residents' ratings of Boston align with citywide average---32% see conditions in Boston as better than other major cities compared to citywide average of 30%
- Residents express much more pride in city (58%) than citywide average of 41%
- Pride in South Boston (62%) also above average of 52% for all neighborhoods
- Likelihood of remaining in South Boston when changing residence (52%) among highest in the city---compares to 29% citywide average

II. Budget Perceptions:

- Residents likely to demand major budget increases for public schools (20%) and programs for the elderly (20%)---less demand for major budget increments than in most other neighborhoods

III. Crime Concerns:

- Overall feeling of safety in South Boston is greater than in most other sections of Boston ---90% vs. 75% citywide

- Trend of neighborhood crime viewed as unchanged (50%) or decreasing (29%) more than city averages of 39% and 22%, respectively

- However, greater concern expressed over youth gangs (46%) and vandalism (43%) than in any neighborhood---other crime concerns: burglary (25%), narcotics (21%), auto theft (21%), and racial conflict (20%)

IV. Fiscal Concerns:

- Feeling that city tax rate is increasing at a faster rate than inflation (47%) matches average of 47% citywide

- Residents agree (81% vs. 75% citywide) that Boston's property tax rate is higher than in other cities; they further agree (74% vs. 51% citywide) that the tax rate is likely to continue to rise because of inflation

- Residents disagree by a margin of 55% to 34% in agreement that Bostonians would accept a cut in services in exchange for a slower rate growth in the tax rate---compares to 44% who disagree and 46% in agreement citywide

V. Demographics:

- Head of household population older than total Boston---6% in 18 - 24 age group vs. 9% citywide ---28% in 65 and over vs. 22% citywide
- Lower proportion of business and professionals (5%) than citywide average of 14%---fewer blue collar (28%) than 33% citywide: white collar population (24%) aligns with 25% city average
- Considerably lower concentration of college graduates (8%) than 21% for total Boston
- Lower average income levels: 21% $15,000 + vs. 34% citywide

NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILE

South End/Chinatown

I. Attitude Overview:

- Residents' ratings of Boston tend to polarize---34% see conditions in Boston as better than other major cities compared to citywide average of 30% ---35% rate Boston conditions worse compared to 23% citywide
- Residents express pride in city (42%) to about the same extent as the citywide average (41%)
- Expression of pride in neighborhood (56%) just above average of 52% citywide
- More likely to remain in South End/Chinatown when changing residence (46%) than citywide average of 29%

II. Budget Perceptions:

- Residents likely to demand major budget increases for public housing (47%), programs to revitalize the economy (42%), street lighting (36%), community schools (36%), programs for the elderly (36%), street sweeping (36%)---all at considerably higher levels than citywide averages

III. Crime Concerns:

- Overall feelings of safety in the South End/ Chinatown neighborhood are below citywide levels---60% vs. 75% citywide
- Neighborhood crime trend perceived as decreasing (35%) to a greater extent than most other neighborhoods---compares to 22% city average
- Nevertheless, residents express greater concern than other neighborhoods over mugging (64%) and burglary (61%)---other crime concerns: auto theft (28%), narcotics (27%) and fire/arson (24%)

IV. Fiscal Concerns:

- Residents perceive city tax rate as increasing at a faster rate than inflation (61%) to a greater extent than citywide average of 47%
- Neighborhood residents more likely than other Bostonians to agree (by 55% vs. 19% opposed) that the limitation placed on property taxes in California will result in the reduction of vital services---compared to less agreement (35%) than disagreement (46%) citywide

V. Demographics:

- Younger head of household population than total Boston---37% in 18-29 age group vs. 22% citywide---only 32% in 40 and over vs. 60% citywide

- Higher concentration of white collar workers (40%) than citywide average of 25%---fewer blue collar (17%) than 33% citywide: business and professional segment (16%) aligns with 14% city average

- Large population of college graduates (39%) compared to 21% citywide

- Income levels below city averages: 62% under $10,000 vs. 41% citywide

- Diverse ethnic mixture: black residents (39%) vs. 16% citywide, Oriental residents (15%) vs. 1% citywide, Hispanic residents (9%) vs. 2% citywide

NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILE

West Roxbury

I. Attitude Overview:

- West Roxbury residents' ratings of Boston are considerably more favorable than citywide averages---45% see conditions in Boston as better than other major cities compared to citywide average of 30%
- Residents' expression of pride in city (65%) greater than in most other neighborhoods---compares to average of 41% citywide
- Pride in neighborhood (79%) also greater than in other neighborhoods---compares to 52% average citywide neighborhood pride
- Likelihood of remaining in West Roxbury when changing residence (29%) equals citywide average of 29%

II. Budget Perceptions:

- Residents likely to demand major budget increase for programs to aid the elderly (21%), street repair (21%), and the Housing Improvement Program (18%)---less demand for major budget increases in other budget areas than citywide averages

III. Crime Concerns:

- Overall feelings of safety in West Roxbury are above citywide levels---82% vs. 75% citywide
- Residents express greatest concern over burglary (41%), vandalism (34%), youth gangs (30%) and auto theft (29%)

IV. Fiscal Concerns:

- City tax rate perceived as increasing at a faster rate than inflation (72%) to a greater extent than in other neighborhoods: compares to city average of 47%
- Residents agree (67% vs. 51% citywide) that inflationary pressures are likely to cause future tax increases---and disagree (64% vs. 44% citywide) that Bostonians would accept cuts in services in exchange for a lower rate of growth in taxes

V. Demographics:

- Older head of household population than total Boston---only 2% in 18 - 24 age group vs. 9% citywide---73% age 40 and over vs. 60% citywide
- Higher than average concentration of business and professionals (17%) compared to citywide average of 14%---fewer blue collar (18%) than 33% citywide
- Greater population of college graduates (29%) than 21% for Boston in total
- Higher average income levels: 48% $15,000 + vs. 34% citywide